

SPECIAL REPORT:
KILLER CULTS

POWER PLAY:
WOMEN IN SPORT



Maclean's

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

APRIL 7, 1997

THE BRE-X BUST

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Cover

50 The Bre-X bust

High-flying Bre-X Minerals Ltd., the Calgary firm that claimed to have struck it rich in the Borneo jungle, came crashing back to earth as stunned investors awake to the possibility that the world's biggest gold find might, in reality, have been a massive fraud.



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44 Killer cults

In Quebec and California, 44 people died as the followers of two bizarre but unimposed suicidal cults sought to end life.



30 The reckoning

Survivors and families will have to relive painful memories as the 1995 bombing that killed 168 in Oklahoma City goes to trial.



62 Power play

The Canadians battling at this week's world hockey championships in Kitchener, Ont., are part of an unprecedented boom in women's sports.

From The Editor

Quebec is THE election issue



Amid the deal-making at the Petroleum Club in Calgary, the rooming table talk last week was about the apparent collapse of the golden BoreX dream. The strike in the giant Sulway grocery chain was ended, along with Premier Ralph Klein's new post-election cabinet (the cameras was that Red Deer hardliner Stackwell Day will do just fine, thank you, in the treasury post). But the sun was shining outside, the temperature was in the teens and oil prices were in the 20s. In the generally buoyant atmosphere, a visitor's question about Quebec and national unity was an unwelcome intrusion. "You could take a walk around this room," said the oil executive, "and most people would say, 'Just let it alone.'"

Such is the dilemma facing three of the federal parties—the Liberals, Conservatives and New Democrats—as they gear up for an election that Prime Minister Jean Chretien is expected to call in the next five weeks. The blunt fact is that national unity is still the most important issue facing the country, but hard realities make it virtually impossible to even have a serious discussion of the matter. True, intergovernmental discussions are the chief concern of most Canadians. But without a united country—and Quebec as an integral part of the whole—everyone will suffer. Clearly, Canadians are going to have to live that issue—if not during the upcoming election, then after. It will not go away. The outlook is not encouraging. A separatist government in its power in the second-largest province, three political causes citing its fiery role in the civil war in Rwanda and showing signs of being strong at the polls, and what Quebecers regard as the most important constitutional reform measures—confirming their status as "a distinct society"—are largely rejected in great tracts of English-speaking Canada.

Chretien has made it clear that if re-elected, he will continue to push for constitutional reform and the distinct society concept. "I hope to be able to do more and coordinate these measures in the Constitution as soon as this becomes possible," he told a business

conference in Lével, Que., last week. Translators of Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard changed his mind or gets deflected.

The other problem Chretien has is that only two federal parties agree with him—the Tories and NDP—and they head into the election with a total of 11 seats. Preston Manning's Reform party and Gilles Duceppe, the newly crowned Bloc Québécois leader, both oppose any distinct society for Quebec—for different reasons. Manning says that Reform favors a major decentralization of power that would benefit Quebec, but insists that the province should not receive any special status because "everyone should have the same rules." Duceppe, campaigning almost month for the party's leadership, stated that "Quebec is not a distinct society but a distinct nation."

There is one outside possibility—a long shot—that the issue could be resolved outside the conventional arena of federal provincial meetings: The upcoming election will amount to a referendum on Chretien's stewardship. He is not likely to make a lot of promises, and if he is re-elected with another majority, Chretien will come back to power with a strong personal mandate. He would share that dedication with Alberta Premier Ralph Klein, just returned with a solid majority, built largely on his own popularity. Klein presumably has national political aspirations. Is it too much of a leap to imagine a Chretien-Klein alliance and a new attempt to define the rights and powers not only of Quebec, but of the provinces of the West? As co-founders of a new set of reform measures, Chretien and Klein could heal Bouchard and all at the same time, convincing Quebecers that there is enough goodwill in the rest of Canada for them to set separation aside, while at the same time reassuring other provinces that their distinctive needs are being met in the same document. You didn't hear it first at the Petroleum Club.

Robert Lewis

Newsroom Notes:

Dreams spun from gold

From the beginning, the story of BoreX Minerals Ltd. has had all the makings of a Hollywood blockbuster. But what kind of movie would it be? At first, it seemed like the heartwarming rags-to-riches tale of a formerly basement stock-peddler who, working from his Calgary basement, did the big time in the international mining game. By last fall, it had evolved into an epic drama of



Wells, frequent traveler

intrigue and power politics in corrupt, oil-rich Indonesia. Now, in the wake of a stunning collapse in the company's share price, the mysterious death of BoreX geologist Michael deGuzman and allegations of fraud, the script has taken on the flavor of a classic whodunit.

Maclean's National Business Correspondent Jennifer Wells has tracked every loose end and turn of the BoreX saga, chronicling the company's triumphs and setbacks through three cover stories in the span of four months. Said Wells, who spent 10 days in Indonesia in February: "I met deGuzman in Jakarta. He had just been sprung from hospital. He seemed such a nice guy. His disappearance was a real shocker." This story begins on page 50.

See 1997 Toyota Avalon special section
on Canadian Special Advertising



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\$14,000, it's surprisingly affordable.

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Scene from *The English Patient*: Canadian actors

The global patient

"Oor back and their moor?" Oh, come on. *The English Patient*, as both a book and a film, is a product for a global audience ("The Canadian patient," *Cover*, March 30). It's fiction. It is a fine film, but no more or less a contribution to Canadian culture than the many hundreds of other films actually shot in Canada for the same global audience in the past few years. It was nice to see the few tossers in the script for Canada, but it wasn't a story about Canada or Canadians. Who cares where it was made or by whom?

Julie Delaney,
Mississauga, Ont. ■

Scarcely a week passes without Marlowe's witty scribbles lamenting either the acknowledged state of the CBC, the sadly underfunded state of the arts, or our rallying as Canadians to defend various writers in the field of cinema. Various scapegoats are forced: usually politicians, all of which

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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beginnings are to wonder: when did the Top 10 film popular songs, best-selling books and television shows are usually Americans, who are experts at "us kidding" We are our own worst enemies. With one hand we wave the reds of alarm, even while we monopolize the television remote control with the other. With this in mind, it would come as no great surprise were we to discover that the greater portion of these alienated disturbers had been written while the complainers watched *Seinfeld*.

Kath Irving,
Montreal, Que.

As long as Canadian films have "a pathological taste for dark, sensitive, usually transgressive film noir," they don't deserve public support either through tax dollars or at the box office. We do need, however, to provide the resources to build the minds and souls of those who produce such films.

Geoff Robinson,
Charlevoix

Most Canadians don't seem to realize that supporting Canadian cultural products is not just a duty, it is a requirement of national understanding. If we are to maintain our cultural products here, we must learn to appreciate them here, rather than holding them up to American or international comparison benchmarks. Anne Morrison's bitter career as Paula Abdul clone here in Canada taught her one thing—to get an American record deal. This is the sad state of affairs for Canadian artists who are faced of pursuing an increasingly small, fickle and largely unappreciative audience in Canada. Yes, Canadian cultural producers have an international audience, no, we don't support them at least not until they acquire that international audience. Hence, the problem is not that they abandon us, but that we abandon them.

Phil Saunders,
London, Ont. ■

To answer the question "Why can't Canada make its own hit songs?" don't blame it all on money. Canadian producers are virtually synonymous with being bad. Make movies that people want to watch, and they will watch them.

Garry Seligson,
Montreal

The price of gold

When people read stories like "Greed, profit, gold" (*Cover*, March 3), most are probably impressed by the billion-dollar figures cited. What they may not know is that these profits are made while indigenous people die fighting for their land and their lives just outside the fences that surround the mining sites. Near the U.S.-owned Freeport-McMoan gold and copper mine in Irian Jaya (Indonesia New Guinea), hundreds of indigenous Amang people have been terrorized or imprisoned, and according to some reports, even a few following attempts to settle their concerns about the pollution and destruction of traditional lands and river systems. Similar mistreatment of people by Indonesian soldiers has taken place near the Bussang gold find in Indonesian Borneo. The operations of overseas mining companies should not be glorified and discussed only in terms of the profits made. Instead, such operations should be critically examined in terms of the social and environmental costs paid by the indigenous landowners. In too many cases, the price paid is the obliteration of both the natural environment and the way of life of the people whom that environment has nurtured for millennia.

Catherine Apunga,
Langens, Papua New Guinea

Paying for the CBC

Naturally those who love the CBC wish to keep it as a 6—paid for on the main by those who don't love it and don't see it as the nation's glue ("Babble-raising for the CBC," *Media*, March 30). But it's not fair to force taxpayers to pay the entertainment bill of a small minority CBC devotees tried to think those who are not are insulted and unappreciated—may disagree in some truths in that, but not a bit. Rather than squabbling about losing their CBC perk, fans should be looking to a PBS-type operation that would pay its own way.

Neil Glicksman,
Quebec Beach, N.C. ■

Duplications, coverly, calculated. How else to describe the Liberal's department one-CBC handling? After their Red Book promise, who could have imagined such a brazen churning of the CBC? Lacking the courage to be forthright as their intentions, their slow strangling of the CBC is calculated to reduce this last bastion of national culture to a palimpsest of its former self. And now to add to

THE PERFECT CEREAL FOR A COUNTRY WHERE THE ONLY EXTREMES ARE THE WEATHER, TAXES AND DON CHERRY.

IS 'EXTREMELY MODERATE AN OXYMORON?

Americans are known to be aggressive about other things. The lists are known to be surreal.

Canadian? Besides the obvious exceptions, we're known for being well-mannered. Let's just say, in the world of cereal.

Kilgiff's Last Right, a party much as the next best.

FOUR GRAINS ARE BETTER THAN ONE.

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the fact that we're not from flakes. Nor are we from flakes.

We're not at either end of the scale like they are. Just right in

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not too heavy and not too light. And it's actually the notion of

sweet, crumbly oat suggests whole grain wheat and flakes of rice and rice that really makes it unique.

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world. The perfect balance — much like

Canada. And that's something Mr. Cherry

would agree is extremely positive.

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Recent research shows that half of Canadians eat less than 2 servings of vegetables and fruit, and less than 2 servings of milk products a day. Canada's Food Guide (Maclean's February 1997) recommends 2 1/2 servings of vegetables and fruit and 3-4 servings of milk products a day.

The Impossible Dream?

You'll be surprised. It's simply a question of making your choices work for you. Just think Four Food Groups. When you eat at your favourite fast food place for example, add a side of slaw to your regular size burger, have a salad on the side, orange juice as your beverage and a frozen yogurt for dessert and voilà! — a delicious, balanced meal.

Totally Restrictive?

If you think this, you probably think all your favourite foods are off limits. But true. It's a question of balance. Balance your "treats" with wholesome foods, higher fat foods with lower-fat foods, etcetera. All foods really can fit into a healthy diet.

A Piece of Cake?

This is the trick. Especially if you make "moderation" your watch-word. Sweet treats, rich foods, high-fat snacks — eating any food in moderate quantities is okay. But remember also, too much of even the most beautiful food can be as much of a problem as too little.

From the Dairy Bureau of Canada

The "Percentage of Calories from Fat" Debate

Canada versus the USA

U.S. labeling laws now require American food companies to state the percentage of calories from fat in their foods. Contact with American food companies through Interleaved and Intersect has led some Canadians to wonder why Canadian food companies aren't doing the same.

At present, the Canadian government requires the percentage of calories from fat on being an inappropriate guide for choosing individual foods. Here's an illustration why. Imagine adding a single drop of olive oil to a glass of water. The result is a beverage in which 100% of the calories come from fat. However, what you've really got is a drink containing 1/1000th of a gram (less than 0.1 calories) of fat. And the information left on you never about how nutritious that drink may be.

A Balanced Diet



THE MAIL

develop a relationship with it. In addition, there is an unspoken regard among members of Parliament for all of those who get there because of their own merits. Certainly these dual MPs bypass the legitimate selection of constituents.

Joe Swan
MP, Calgary East

Clearly, there can be no question of the need to correct gender imbalance in the House of Commons and the treatment of women in our society in general, but the majority of electors in Canada do not vote for the person in this regard. Most of us vote for the representative of a party based on the character and qualities of its leader and/or for the degree to which we are satisfied with how it has governed. But imagine if Clinton announced his wish to appoint more to his choice of 25 selected members. We'd be hearing loud screams of foul play from east to west.

Don B. Ogden
Edmonton

The heart of a city

As a former Torontonian, I read your own story on the city's vote on becoming a majority with great interest ("The Light for Toronto" March 12). I believe that by not accepting the plan to change Toronto into a majority, residents are leaving the government with little choice but to cut other services in order to balance this potential budget. Undesirably, most in the city seem to fear what might happen if Toronto became a majority. Yet as a current resident of San Francisco, I can assure that the diversity of the neighbourhoods may be preserved even within a large city. After all, the distinctive character of a city depends more on the beliefs in the hearts and minds of its residents than it does on the administrative decisions of a municipal government.

Jeffrey Butler
San Francisco

Lost in translation

Why in Quebec Liberal Leader Daniel Johnson so pleased with Western Canada's rejection of Quebec as a distinct society ("Can Daniel Johnson overstate Bouchard?" The Nation's Business, March 2000) he suggests the misleadingly phrased differently by translators and wants to know what we would give up by accepting this. We would be giving up an equality as Canadians. The extant notion of superiority as obvious A Canada without Quebec is preferable to the burden of D Quebec's endless blemish.

Kelly Ruz
Alhambra, B.C.

EDITORIAL UPDATE

The Maclean's Guide to Universities

The definitive guide to Canadian universities features comprehensive, colorful profiles of more than 50 universities. The Maclean's university rankings and Campus Confidential, where students tell it what makes their schools tick—and what ticks them off. It features a guide to the hottest hangouts, the most popular professors, and the best scoop on What's Hot and What's Not, and What's New. Also included is a Financial Planner and the Center Piece—where students can pick up pointers on how to prepare for a changing job market.

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Backstage



Anthony Wilson-Smith

Promising to do less is good politics

To understand conventional wisdom in Canada, and how quickly it changes in politics, consider this: Four years ago this month, the federal Liberals' Atlantic caucus members held a meeting to plan election strategy. One invited guest speaker was Donald Sorensen, a respected academic with good Liberal connections. Sorensen told them that, by necessity, the era of buying voters with public money was over, and the time for cutting spending had to begin. Unless that happened immediately across Canada, Sorensen said, governments—and their ability to finance public programs—faced ruin. In the wake of that dramatic conclusion, Senator Allan Rock, the most powerful Maritime politician, was asked to pose the first question: "Now that we've heard from the good professor," he said scathingly, "let's talk politics." Sorensen and his conclusion were dismissed.

Forty-eight months later, Maclean's has returned—and the vision of politics he represented appears to have disappeared with him. Today, all federal and provincial governments are cutting spending, and on the issue of a balanced budget, the only question is when—rather than whether—that goal is desirable. At the federal level, program spending will be \$100.5 billion in the next fiscal year—\$10.5 billion less than it was five years ago. On a provincial level, Canada has three governments—the Parti Québécois in Quebec and the New Democratic Party in Saskatchewan and British Columbia—that still consider themselves to be "social democratic" and left of center. Of these, Saskatchewan has already balanced its budget—and last month cut sales taxes in its budget. Last week, Quebec and British Columbia both tabled budgets that included spending cuts and promises to balance their budgets by the turn of the century.

So it seems that in the 1990s, the most effective politicians are those who promise that, if elected, they will do even less than their pre-decisions. In the coming federal election campaign, the Liberals will discuss the fact that spending cuts and the efficiency with which they were implemented, from the biggest success of their term in office. To the right of the Liberals, the Reform party and various Progressive Conservatives will argue that the Liberals have cut the size of government too little, and too slowly. While the Liberals have already cut 85,000 jobs out of the federal public service, the Tories and Reformers promise more reductions. Even the Bloc Québécois will brand lightly on the issue of a balanced budget because that is one of the goals for Quebec of the sovereignty movement's leader, Premier Jacques Parizeau. Only the tiny federal NDP is likely to echo the traditional argument that there are times when governments should spend and do more.

As with all standpates, the size and speed of the thundering herd

towards the right will produce some casualties. One is surely Trillium, which abhors a vacuum, which means that the Liberals will not campaign simply as a promise to continue the same policies they have followed for the past four years. Instead, both the Tories and Reform promise massive tax cuts, and the Liberals are flirting with the idea of promising cuts at a later date. This, despite the fact that while the annual deficit is about to be eliminated, the *total*—the amount that the federal government has overspent over the years—now stands at over \$600 billion. In other words, although the Liberals have run up \$180 billion in new debt over the past four years, all three parties suggest that federal finances are now so healthy that they can withstand a significant loss of revenue.

Another problem is that the supposed New Age politics of the 1990s is, after closer examination, nothing more than old-style campaigning with cosmetic surgery. The decision by various Canadian governments to cut spending was possibly accompanied by hand-wringing declarations about the crushing debt that today's taxpayers will leave their children as a result of extravagant social programs. But cutting taxes now simply ensures that today's generation will enjoy a new benefit—better take-home pay—while still passing on the same debt to its children.

Most politicians will prefer yesterday's rhetoric to today's reality. "Direct government job creation clearly cannot solve Canada's unemployment problem," notes Finance Minister Paul Martin, as he latest budget. Despite this, the Liberals, Reform and Tories all suggest they can provide the necessary stimulus to an unemployment rate that hovers stubbornly at about 10 per cent. But in an era of reduced spending, an increase, decimation of some powers to the provinces, and reduced transfer payments to those same provinces, that is a promise that, arguably, no federal party has the power to keep.

And even on a less substantive level, some of the parties has taken on the obvious signs available to it. In the United States, for example, Labor Secretary Robert Reich covered a job summit of politicians, labor and business leaders last year to discuss new proposals and solutions. Reichard held a similar summit in Quebec. At the very least, such meetings offer an opportunity for someone to focus on down together to discuss issues on which they share similar goals. But that hasn't happened on a national scale yet—because no one has offered the opportunity for discussion.

Can governments still create jobs? Does it make sense to reduce taxes? Many voters want to believe that the answer to both questions is yes. Hence, the related promises by all parties. That means the campaign to come will be all too conventional—and all too lacking in vision.

To keep up with
the Tories and
Reformers, the
Liberals are
flirting with the
idea of promising
to cut taxes—later

Opening Notes

Edited by BARBARA WICKENS

Canadian designs on the catwalk

Men's
fashion
depth
of fashion

It was the shot in the arm that the Canadian fashion industry has been hyping for. For this year, a number of designers had been holding their nose a year to show the spring and fall ready-to-wear collections, but without attracting much notice. By mid-January, it looked as though there wouldn't be enough interest—or money—in stage this year's fall collections. But at the end of January, a corporate sponsor stepped forward to save the day. Although a host of salesmen, Montreal-based Imperial Television Ltd., via its du Maurier and Players brands, has been a boss to arts and sports groups throughout Canada, now it was time for Imperial's Mulholland to step up its generosity in the fashion world. With a substantial infusion of cash, the show became the



Rocky creation, Fieldworker
nightwear offers far-flung buyers



"Matinee Fashion Ready-to-Wear." This, however, left little more than six weeks for organizers to find a suitable venue, hire more than 30 models and coordinate dozens of behind-the-scenes staffers, from makeup to lighting artists. As a result, a party of fashion industry insiders had to quickly determine who among the 27 applicants would get one of 16 time slots to show their line. But at last week's two-day event in Toronto, none of that scrambling was readily apparent. Instead, the shows demonstrated the breadth and depth of Canadian fashion, from Vancouverite Patricia Fieldworker's scintillating lingerie to Toronto-based Rae Bailey's stunning suits to Montreal's Dora Menzies's corsete know-how. On the last night, the event attracted buyers from across Canada and as far away as Dallas. All dressed up with somewhere to go.

A chance to please

Since his last appearance last fall, Kim Campbell's prairie Chancer, has been helping her settle into her job as consul general in Los Angeles. Now six months old, the black standard poodle charmed both employees and visitors with his appearance at the South Hope street consulate. When nature called, the former prime minister's chaperone would take the poodle-puppy outside. But according to a Campbell aide, for the most part Chancer just lay on the floor in Campbell's office, "like an

ornament." That quickly ended when the building's landlord angrily enforced his no-pets policy. "She got over it," said the aide. "The staffers were over the upset." Chancer now spends his time at the consul's official residence, entertaining the frequent guests and bonding with Campbell—who also owes a cat named Tine. Chancer's exemplary behavior would have endeared him even more to Campbell, whose 1990 autobiography was titled—surprise—*Tine and Chancer*. Ironically, however, Tine disappeared for a while. But Chancer is not a suspect. Those just ran out.

Shacking up now respectable

Common-law marriages used to be considered "common"—that is, lower-class couples, the shabby sort, who lived together without a marriage license. But a Statistics Canada report released last week indicates that such marriages now are "common" in another sense of the word: widespread. According to "Common Law Unions at the End of the 20th Century,"

the number of couples simply living together nearly tripled between 1981 and 1995. Statistics Canada attributes the phenomenon to the fact that there is now far less stigma attached to such unions. Some study highlights:

- In 1995, nearly two million Canadians lived common-law, up from 700,000 in 1981. Nationwide, they now represent 14 per cent of all couples
- Quebec has the greatest number of

common-law spouses, with 25 per cent of couples living together. The number jumps to 60 per cent for Quebecers under 30.

- Manitoba and Saskatchewan have the smallest percentage of common-law couples, 7.1.
- Statistics Canada predicts that if the current trend continues, by the year 2022 there will be the same number of couples living together as married in Canada.

Daylight savings

A Dendel northern session featuring a round-robin parliament session by Henry Ford Publications Inc. now afloat at the east in the U.S. national assembly, in theory, at least. When the current legislative session began on March 13, the ruling Parti Québécois and the opposition Liberals voted unanimously to modify the rules governing morning hours in the provincial legislature. Assembly sessions now begin at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and must end by 6 p.m. Speaker Jean Pierre Charbonneau says the changes will save the government \$400,000 annually in overtime costs. And, he claims, the new hours will improve the image of Quebec's politicians. "It is ironic people first learn which select people's lives are discussed and adopted late at night, often without the media and the public present," says Charbonneau, who proposed the reforms. Aids Liberal house leader Pierre Paradis, who supports the changes "I've not always kept speechless at 4 a.m." He says that the shorter hours should also reduce the "burnout risk factor"—a reference to a past occasion when MNAs were spotted from the assembly for being drunk. That just 10 days after the new rules were passed, the speaker called for a special sitting on March 20 so the assembly could debate and adopt a special law that would have forced Quebec government workers' unions to accept collective bargaining agreements. Old habits die hard.

BEST-SELLERS

FICTION

1. *The Poet*, Lisa Gardner (D)
2. *Alas Bova, Myriad About D*
3. *Ball in the Face*, Joe More MacDonald (D)
4. *The Day After Tomorrow*, Jay McInerney (D)
5. *State, Please Wait*
6. *Small Town*, Andrew C. Clarke (D)
7. *Shadows*, B. Smith (C)
8. *News of the World*, David Shields (D)
9. *The West Wing*, Timothy Flaherty
10. *Midnight*, Joe More MacDonald (D)

NONFICTION

1. *Power, Politics & the World*, David Shields (D)
2. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)
3. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)
4. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)
5. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)
6. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)
7. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)
8. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)
9. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)
10. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)

11. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)

12. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)

13. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)

14. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)

15. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)

16. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)

17. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)

18. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)

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33. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)

34. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)

35. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)

36. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)

37. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)

38. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)

39. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)

40. *Secrets of the Mind*, David Shields (D)

Passages

DIED: Alberta Tory Hugh Hornor, 72, of a heart attack, in Edmonton. Born in Blaine Lake, Sask., Hornor was first elected to Parliament in John G. Diefenbaker's 1958 landslide victory, as was his younger brother, Bob. While back later elected to the Liberals and became a federal cabinet minister, Hornor stayed with the Conservatives, switching to provincial politics in 1967. A longtime Burnhead, Alta., surgeon.



"Doc" Hornor became a minister and deputy premier under Peter Lougheed who credited him with playing a major role in taking the province out of power.

DIED: Canadian entrepreneur Irvia Strub, 85, who with his brother, Bob, built Strub Bros. Ltd. into one of Canada's largest cattle companies, of ranches, in Hamilton. Strub's parents emigrated from Russia in 1902 with few possessions other than a goat and a people rope. Nine years later, the Strub family began picking cucumbers from their Hamilton green. In 1949, the family moved the business to a warehouse in nearby Dundas.

DIED: Former Canadian Football League head coach Fred Anderson, 73, of a heart attack, in Sacramento, Calif. Anderson's Sacramento Gold Miners became the first American-based CFL team in 1963. The squad relocated to San Antonio, Tex., in 1975, but folded before the 1976 season.

DIED: Rhythm-and-blues singer Harold Melvin, 57, of natural causes, in Philadelphia. As leader of the Blue Notes, Melvin moulded drummer Teddy Pendergast into the band's celebrated crooner of such 1970s hits as "The Love I Lost" and "If You Don't Know Me, Be My Love."

DIED: Susan Melner, 101, the mother of Playboy magazine's magazine, High Heels, in Scottsdale, Ariz.

AWARDED: The \$200,000 (U.S.) King Paul International Prize for Medicine, to Canadian, Mary-Joanne Canadian, scientist John G. Diefenbaker, 44, for his work in locating the gene responsible for Huntington's disease.



Lesser greese: dwindling crops and the environment

No more loosey goosey

Thirty years ago, the snow goose was nearly cooked. But thanks to conservation efforts, both the lesser and greater snow geese have staged a remarkable comeback—the remarkable, some would argue. Farmers in the Quebec City region across the greater goose—whose numbers

have increased sixfold since the 1960s, to an estimated 600,000—of destroying crops during its spring migration north to Baffin Island. The lesser goose—which is a third smaller than its cousin—however, is posing an even bigger problem. Wildlife researchers fear that the tripling of its population to roughly six million has led to an ecological crisis along the southern and western shores of James and Hudson's bays. Kenneth Armstrong, a scientist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, explains that the geese force along ecologically fragile salt marshes, destroying fields and turning coastal areas into deserts. "This, in turn," he says, "sets off a feed-chain cascade which negatively impacts ducks, shore birds and the snow geese themselves." As a result, the Hudson Bay Project, a joint Canadian-American research group, recently made 18 recommendations to reducing the lesser snow goose population—including longer hunting seasons.



Canada

Slings and arrows

It was not one of Doug Young's better weeks. The defence minister released his much-ballyhooped report to the Prime Minister on reforming Canada's armed forces—to reactions that ranged from lukewarm to outright derision. Then two days later, yet another political capital credit could have been gained from the initiative was torpedoed by a stunning counterclaim by Young's efforts to turn the page on the Somalia scandal. In British Columbia, Federal Court of Canada Justice Sandra Simpson and the defence minister's decision to close down the Somalia inquiry by March 31 was "unlawful." That brought cheers from John Dixon, who initiated the initiative after being denied the chance to testify at the inquiry because of the March 31 deadline. "The judiciary didn't disappoint me—it was a brilliant strike," said Dixon, who served as an assistant to former defence minister Kim Campbell in 1993. "The work of the commission is what is most important. I want my chance to take part in the inquiry discharging its full duty."

In Dixon's case, personal honour is involved. He and Campbell claim the former defence minister's staff were not informed about the details of the March 15 1993, death of Somalia teenager Shidane Arwe at the hands of Canadian troops until the end of the month, when the news became public. Dixon has also alleged that senior defence department officials tried to cover up the murder. But none of those officials have said a different story, saying that Campbell's

staff was told five days before the story appeared in the media. While Simpson did not touch on the substance of these claims, she obviously agreed with the essence of Dixon's assertion—that the inquiry has been denied a chance to finish its task. That governs men's actions, said Simpson, who will release her written verdict this week, and the "perceived effect of prohibiting the commission of inquiry from reporting in full on its mandate and, in particular, from reporting about whether there was a cover-up in Ottawa of the murder of Shidane Arwe."

Simpson did leave Young some manoeuvring room. The government, she said, has a choice: either let the Somalia inquiry's findings—or rewrite its mandate to exclude those questions or events not yet examined. True to scrappy form, the defence minister indicated that he has third options: appealing the Federal Court decision. And while Young also said that, pending consultation with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, he has not yet decided on the government's response, he did indicate that he remains committed to closing down the inquiry and leaving it to deliver its report by June 30. "The commission has already had three extensions," Young said, adding that he intends to ensure the commission meets its reporting date.

But critics of the government were re-energized by last week's ruling and demanded that the commission immediately resume its hearings—regardless of what action Young decides to take. As Young's end, though, commission chairman Gilles Lévesque had

not yet commented on the latest developments. A no-nonsense critic of both the government and the military, he has responded to Young's decision to end the inquiry by saying that it wastes any chance to reach conclusions about the behaviour of Canadian Forces in Somalia. But Lévesque has come under fire, especially for his rough questioning of some witnesses—and for allowing the inquiry to become what some critics say is an overly detailed investigation that has gone far beyond the expectations of both the government and the department of national defence. As he has, it would become the object of a court action, six weeks ago, the Federal Court of Canada supported the commission of Brig-Gen Ernest Bessé that Lévesque was biased against him, and said the commission chairman could not participate in any discussions or findings against the general. That decision is now under appeal.

According to some observers, mounting the inquiry could prove difficult. Bruce Carr-Harris, the lawyer representing Bessé, notes that the commission has already released some legal and clerical staff. "It is not as simple as opening their files up," says Carr-Harris, who has said the commission should accept what does. Others note that the commission's mandate is to investigate the actions surrounding the inquiry—especially the hostility between the defence minister and the government-appointed commissioners—could have other rather-reaching consequences. "Judges and governments," says University of Ottawa law professor Ed Sandhu, "are not supposed to be involved in the inquiry."

"I will think long and hard before entering into future inquiries."

Still, last week's Federal Court decision has given the opposition more ammunition to add to its stockpile for the coming federal election, especially in June. And if Young sticks to his guns and rewrites the inquiry's mandate in order to end the decision to shut the hearings down, that move will likely be denounced on the campaign trail as part of a continuing effort to cover up what went wrong in Somalia—and the government's response to the scandal. Young has sentenced an alternative to the inquiry: a Senate committee that would complete the probe into the Somalia mission. But Reform party defence critic Iain Hart disagrees that mandate is a workable. Hart accuses that the Somalia inquiry has dragged on for too long. But he adds, given the millions already spent and the many questions left unanswered, the commission must be allowed to continue. "If not allowed to do its job," he says, "there will be no way for Canadians to know the whole story."

Last in all of that was Young's report to the Prime Minister. Based on commission studies by a panel of blue-ribbon experts, including military historian Jack Granatstein and former chief justice of Canada Brian Dickson, it recommends a number of changes to Canada's military. Among them: restrictions on the availability of soldiers taking part in a mission, improved ethics and human rights training for officers and men, pay raises, and new powers and independence for military police. Young also said that the armed forces should have stable funding of \$10 billion a year, and added that the military must not be allowed to suffer because of the scandalous actions of a handful of Canadian soldiers. "Unprecedented public scrutiny, along with a series of intolerable occurrences involving a number of armed forces personnel, should not be allowed to permanently weaken a vital national institution," he said in his report. "Blat" responded Alberta Reform MP Bob Mills. In the case of Canada's trouble-prone military, there could, it seemed last week, be no neutral ground.

LUKE FISHER is in Ottawa

Updating a tradition

He is known as a fighter, and late last week Defence Minister Doug Young fired up in his re-election, reaffirming his commitment to close down the Somalia inquiry in spite of the Federal Court of Canada ruling against the government. Earlier, he spoke to Maclean's Ottawa correspondent Luke Fisher about the challenges facing Canada's military. Excerpt.

Maclean's: Are the Canadian Armed Forces strong enough to support our international military commitments?

Young: The whole notion of matching our resources to commitments is prevalent. In other words, don't overstretch, don't try to do too much. What is important is the commitment to a stable level of human resources, at 60,000 in the regular forces, 30,000 in the reserves and 400,000 in the reserve component—when we're about now. Once you have that set, you understand what your commitments are likely to be in working with your allies.

You can't do that when you are downsizing by 25 per cent and you don't know where we're going to bottom out.

Maclean's: In January, 1996, former chief of defence staff Gen. Jon Stoltz said that the Armed Forces are combat capable. Are they combat capable now?

Young: As I've said many times, I'm combat capable—it depends on who my opponent is. The Canadian Forces are combat capable. Not against the United States and America, but then again, who is? What we need here is a reality check. It's very unlikely we're going to have to go on a battlefield head-to-head with somebody. It won't be the battle of Hastings in 1066 to see who comes out and takes over England.

Maclean's: Are you after concerned about our military capabilities?

Young: Naturally, I do. I do of all our allies every day. I think we're in a good position about this or that. We can also say about them that there are various things that they are involved in, and we're not positive they're always doing the right thing.

Maclean's: Internationally, is our military more than a peacekeeping institution?

Young: Canadians are still infused with the idea of Canadians being overhauled with everybody. There were the Pearson peacekeeping kinds of activities where there was peace. That's no longer the case. In Bosnia, you don't know who the good guys or bad guys are, or who is at what side. The danger is very different. I'm not sure that Canada has taken on that role. But that has evolved from peacekeeping to a far more violent environment, which is one of imposing a peace.

Maclean's: Do you see the issue of the military playing a big role in the coming election campaign?

Young: I don't think it will be an over-whelming element, but I do think that the decision to end the Somalia inquiry, after three extensions, could be part of the election process. I think it's important to say out a lot of recommendations on how we see the Forces better managed and led will also generate some debate. I've heard people say it is only window dressing. But I haven't had a chance to see their views. It will certainly be an issue in some parts of the country.



Young: the danger is different

Unsavoury secrets

Ottawa police find a cache of horrifying photos

Until last week, those who lived near Owen Dulmage and his brick bungalow in a quiet Ottawa neighbourhood believed that his 75-year-old neighbour was simply a grumpy recluse. They recalled how Dulmage, with an angry shake of his flaming white hair, rebuffed their offers to mow his ancient lawn, and his curt dismission of his disappointed grandchildren with bags of computer discs and equipment, into the house where he had lived for 33 years. Many knew that Dulmage's mother, who had for many years shared the house with her son—a former federal civil servant and retired payee leader—died in 1994. But such was Dulmage's aloofness that only a few realized he had moved into an Ottawa senior citizens home soon after being struck by a bus last year. "He was difficult to get to know," said one acquaintance. "But I thought he was just a nice old man, if you could get past the peculiarities."

Imagine the shock then when Ottawa police cordoned off the Dulmage home last week and carried away boxes filled with what police said were photographs of naked and bound boys, allegedly abducted during a period that spans more than four decades, and items from Chicago on Tuesday with the kidnapping and forcible confinement in 1980 of Michael Heflery—now a 50-year-old Belleville, Ont., insurance salesman—Dulmage is also under investigation by Ottawa police for other assaults and abductions involving boys between the ages of 13 and 16. The alleged crimes took place in eastern and southern Ontario and Quebec, and date as far back as the late 1940s.

Examples from some of the evidence collected last week are chilling: a book titled *They Aided For Death*, photographs that show boys wearing paper bag hoods and bound hand and foot, others showing boys strung by a rope and pulled from rafters or tree limbs, and, in one black-and-white shot, a youngster crouched naked and bound on a tarpaulin. Said Ottawa police Staff Sgt. Richard Murphy: "The fact that some people are quite long in the various positions makes you wonder who went on, and where these people are today. At this

point, when you look at the photos, you can't tell if they are alive or not."

It was, in fact, a horrifying personal flashback that brought Dulmage to police attention. In 1960, Heflery was the subject of one of the largest searches in the history of Picton, a small resort town near Kingston, Ont. The 13-year-old boy, with 30 cents in his pocket, vanished while hitchhiking a



Dulmage: an eccentric pensioner with a dark past

short distance to a popular beach. The hunt, which involved hundreds of friends, neighbors and boy scouts, ended five days later when the eluded Heflery was found walking along the highway, one kilometre from his parents' home, wearing a bathing suit under his clothes and, inexplicably, newly washed socks.

The boy's aptly recollections—that a man had pulled him up in a tree and kept him in chains in a downtown Ottawa house—prompted at least one theory at the time, a magazine devoted to the supernatural, that he had been abducted by a UFO. But last July Heflery, now married with two children, approached Ottawa police with further de-

tails. That account, combined with recent evidence from a Quebec man who says he was also abducted in the late 1940s, led to Dulmage's arrest. "People may not understand why I insist that I drove my kids to school and put the car up at the end of the day," Heflery told Maclean's. "If they are gone for a minute longer than expected, I worry."

Some observers say the case may develop into Ontario's worst string of serial kidnappings. But to neighbors and Ottawa law enforcement, Dulmage was known strictly as an eccentric, with a talent for playing the stock markets. For many years, he held a string of respectable jobs. Between 1959 and 1960, Dulmage worked as a clerk with the federal department of transport, at a television and radio sales and service company from 1964 to 1967 and, before he was fired in the late 1960s, as a quality manager at an Ottawa computer firm that manufactured aircraft navigational equipment.

But for much of that period, police say, Dulmage may have been engaged in a series of gruesome kidnappings. In 1960, he volunteered as an assistant cab master working with boys under 10. He later became a secret master in charge of teenagers. That job ended in 1961, with his conviction for the kidnapping and torture of a 13-year-old Kingston, Ont., boy, Teddy Wainwright. In a sensational trial, Dulmage admitted that he knocked the boy out and then took him to his Ottawa home, where he suspended the trussed youngster from the rafters, poured hot wax onto his eyelids to seal his eyes closed, and carved the initials TW into his thigh. The second was only discovered because Dulmage drove his car into a ditch on the way back to Kingston—accusing Wainwright to tell his story to the police after both had been taken to hospital. Dulmage received only a one-year sentence.

There is no such clear-cut evidence in the case of the photos discovered last week in Dulmage's home. And, without the testimony of the victims, much of the mystery may never be solved. In Heflery's case, the town of Picton no longer has a police detachment, while the local chief of police at the time of the kidnapping is now 86. Ottawa police admit they have no idea when to find 49-year-old files on abductions, or how to locate missing victims: most computer files begin only in the 1970s. More disturbing, Ottawa police are unsure of who—or how many individuals—they are looking for. The faces of only 10 boys in the hundreds of missing photographs so far from Dulmage's Ottawa home are visible. The rest, the so-called accessories, are shrouded in secrecy.

E. KYLE FULTON in Ottawa



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Photograph by Richard Avedon

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CANADA

The mystery man

Canada wants to deport a suspected terrorist

Hen Abdel Basset al-Sayegh is not an imposing presence. The Saudi Arabian man sitting behind bars in a maximum security Ottawa prison is slightly built and barely five feet, eight inches tall. Even with his stubble, glasses and dark mustache, he looks far younger than his 38 years. Overall, Sayegh hardly resembles the cold-blooded international terrorist that authorities on two continents allege him to be. And he flatly denies that he had any thing to do with the June 25, 1996, truck bombing of a U.S. military complex in Saudi

Arabia that killed 29 Americans and injured 300 others, both Americans and Saudis. But authorities in Washington think the unassuming bombing suspect, who arrived in Canada last August, holds the key to the burning question of whether there was a foreign link to the blast. And what Sayegh says on that matter could ignite another Middle East explosion.

Beyond maintaining that he was in Syria at the time of the bombing, Sayegh has been mostly silent since RCMP and Canadian department of



Site of 1996 Saudi bombing: a country that harbors terrorists

washington affairs, acting on a tip, arrested him in an Ottawa court house alone on March 15. But according to court documents filed last week, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service contends he stalled on the U.S. apartment complex and guided the explosive-laden truck to the grounds on the day of the blast. Ottawa wants him deported from Canada as a security threat. Now it is up to a public hearing slated for April 28 to determine whether he must go.

Outside of Canada he is a wanted man. Normally, deportees are sent back to their country of citizenship. But Sayegh justifiably fears for his life if returned to Saudi Arabia, where terrorists are beheaded. That may not be well as up in the United States, which is preparing documents to apply through Canada's department of justice to have him extradited as a material witness. Access to Sayegh would be a major coup for the FBI, which so far has not been allowed access to any of the 40 suspects—all mem-

bers of Saudi Arabia's minority Shiite Muslim population—arrested there in connection to the bombing. Moreover, it could provide compelling proof of a suspicion held by some Saudi and American officials that the bombing was perpetrated by Saudi Shiite Muslims supported by neighboring Middle Eastern governments.

Sayegh's arrest, after all, is apparently based on contacts he had with Iranian diplomats in Canada and on writings of co-conspirators he had with individuals in Iran during which he reportedly made oblique

JOHN DeMONT is Ottawa writer
WILLIAM LOWMYER is Washington

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CANADA **HALIFAX**

A taxing situation

Business has been booming of late at Crutcher's funeral home in central Halifax. It is not due to a rash of untimely deaths, however, but to what many view as an unwelcome change in the tax system. On April 1, residents in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland start paying the so-called harmonised sales tax (HST), a blending of existing federal and provincial taxes into a single 15-per-cent levy. One result of the change is that taxes will be going up on many goods and services—including funerals—that had previously carried only the seven-percent federal Goods and Services Tax. For Don Flynn, president and general manager of Crutcher's, that has meant a deluge of customers showing up to prepay the cost of loved ones' funerals in order to beat the tax increase. That despite the immediate bonus for his bottom line, Flynn views it all as a bad turn of events. "It was against putting one of the GST on funerals," he says. "You know, you have to be born and you have to die. It's one more way of getting the tax because everyone is going to die."

The HST—widely known as the blended sales tax or colloquially as the "15 tax"—provides a textbook example of how something can look so appealing to the inhabitants of political backrooms and corporate boardrooms, yet so appealing to the per-

son on the street. Nova Scotia Premier John Savage—who championing of the HST helped sink his political fortunes and speed his recent decision to resign from politics—calls it "the greatest economic boost since Confederation." New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna boasts that it will give three Atlantic provinces—Prince Edward Island declined to adopt the HST—a "huge competitive advantage" over other regions of the country.

In many ways, they make a good case. For businesses, the HST promises to be more efficient and less costly than the current tax regime. At the same time, consumers of big-ticket items, such as cars, computers and refrigerators, will pay considerably less than the current combined provincial and federal sales tax—so high as 20 per cent—that they are now charged. But the dream, as many see it, is in the details. First, there were the optics. The HST came about because the federal government was desperate to do something—anything—to make good on its 1993 election promise to get rid of the GST. While six provinces latched (Quebec has already harmonized its sales tax), three Atlantic provinces—all Liberals—signed on in exchange for \$860 million from Ottawa to off-

set the revenue they expect to lose over four years because of the lower blended tax. Critics quickly dubbed the deal the "halloo-dollie bribe."

Making the HST an even harder sell is the fact that taxes will be going up on such basic goods and services as groceries, home heating fuel, electricity and clothing purchases under \$84. At the Halifax food bank, which last week launched its annual "hunger awareness" campaign, executive director Diane Swenmar sounds discouraged. Swenmar predicts that the new tax regime will hurt her clients, while forcing others into food bank lineups for the first time. She is also critical of the fact that the Nova Scotia government is lowering taxes on such things as alcohol at the same time that it is hiking taxes on many essential items. "Our priorities," she says, "are all mixed up."

But it is not just advocates for the poor who take umbrage at the HST. Polls show a clear majority of Atlantic Canadians oppose the blended levy, with most saying they simply do not believe claims that it will lead to a lower tax burden for most consumers. "Every time the middle class is told about tax returns, they automatically think tax increases," says Acadia University political scientist Agne Adamson. That kind of cynicism was certainly on display during Senate hearings last month in Atlantic Canada. Because the HST will in some cases increase tax rates, handshakes warned that more of the middle class will end up in downward economic slides and that people would opt to walk, and seniors complained that their pensions would be eroded. One Halifax veterinarian even raised the spectre of owners declaring to neuter their pets and of fewer children knowing the joys of coming for animals.

The main upshot of the Senate hearings was Ottawa's decision to back down on its insistence that the blended tax be hidden in the price of consumer items. National retailers, who supported the HST in principle, then looked strongly at the measure, saying that it would cost them dearly to keep a separate inventory of goods

destined for Atlantic Canada. Ironically, polls had shown that so-called taxmanoeuvring was the one part of the HST that consumers supported—and polling it left people like Desmond Nagent, a retired Halifax area civil servant, jumping mad. "To me, it's lying, cheating, deceit," says Nagent. "I can't stand having these taxes laid out at the register and thump us." In life, as in death, the HST seems destined for a bumpy ride.

BRIAN BERGMAN



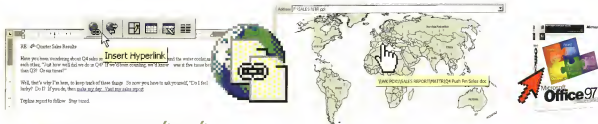
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Canada NOTES

A SPRING ELECTION?

The signs kept mounting that the federal Liberals intend to call an early election. Last week, the government postponed two official visits to Ottawa—one by President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines, scheduled for May 7 to 10, the other by Irish President Mary Robinson, also scheduled for May. Liberal sources say that Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is considering two possible dates for an election, June 2 or June 8. That would mean an election call as either April 27 or May 4.

NEW FACES

Alberta Premier Ralph Klein, fresh from his March 11 election victory, named a new cabinet. Among the most important changes former social services minister Brockwell Day became treasurer, taking over from Jim Dinning, who oversees the province's successful budget-cutting campaign but announced his retirement before the election. Klein also elevated several backbenchers to cabinet, including Progressive MLA Ed Stelmach to the powerful agriculture portfolio.

TEARS AND AN APOLOGY

Crown prosecutor Susan MacLennan broke down and tearfully apologized to Guy Paul Morin at the Toronto inquest into his wrongful murder conviction. "I did not want to hurt Mr. Morin and I'm very sorry for any mistakes I made," said MacLennan, who was involved in the prosecution of Morin in 1986—a trial that resulted in an acquittal—and again in 1992, when Morin was convicted of the 1984 sex murder of Christine Jessup. It, his next-door neighbor in Queensville, Ont. Morin was exonerated by DNA testing in 1995.

MUGCITY AMENDMENTS

Ontario's Tory government introduced amendments to Bill 101, the controversial legislation that would create a majority from Toronto and five other municipal governments. Among the changes, the new municipality council would be expanded to 67 members from the previously proposed 48, and the municipalities would keep their identities through community councils that retain their names. Opponents of the move, headed by former Toronto mayor John Sewell, promised to continue their fight against amalgamation.

Facing down the skeptics

It was not a time for over-optimistic proclamations. British Columbia's finance minister, Andrew Petter, admitted he'd get that \$300-million deficit for the fiscal year just ending—and a \$185-million deficit for 1997-1998. "It's important we establish credibility," Petter said. "I believe the economy is going to improve, but I want to err on the side of caution." That approach was understandable. Since last year, after the NDP's claim during the April election campaign that the books were balanced, the province's fiscal reality has led to charges that the government deliberately lied. And some critics remain skeptical. "I don't know why anyone would believe the budget," said Liberal Leader Gordon Campbell. "This government has shown that they are not capable of giving us the real



Peter Landry (below) giving with one hand while taking away with the other.

numbers. They have got a long, long road back to credibility."

In Quebec, meanwhile, where the Parti Québécois government is trying to eliminate the province's \$2.5-billion deficit by the year 2000, Finance Minister Bernard Landry tabled a budget that gave with one hand—while taking away with the other. Households earning less than \$50,000 a year received a 15-per-cent tax cut; those earning more than \$50,000 annually got a three-per-cent cut. "We chose a scenario that gives people hope," Landry declared. And, he added, "We are halfway toward the re-education target—and we are showing that we can pay off in a short period of time." But the finance minister also announced a provincial sales tax increase to 7.5 per cent from 6.5, decreases in funding to municipalities, increases in water fees and a cut of \$648 million from Quebec's education budget.

Neglect's deadly results

JUSTICE The name game

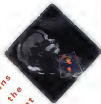
One last shot—that, in effect, was what the Supreme Court of Canada gave the Red Cross last week in denying the Federal Court of Canada ruled against the society, saying that Justice, Honourable Minister of Justice, Jean Chrétien, chairman of the inquiry into Canada's troubled blood scandal, could scrap blame in his final report and remain neutral—indeed, Red Cross officials say that the Supreme Court agreed to hear the society's appeal of that decision, a development that is likely to delay Justice's final report, originally due by September, 1996, by up to two months. The decision allowed victims' groups 2,000 Canadians were infected with AIDS and another 10,000 with hepatitis C in the 1950s through flawed blood products. "This is not just a blood issue, it's a life issue," said Justice's spokesman. "It's a matter of life and death, and it's a matter of justice." "It's unfortunate that people will go to their graves not knowing the truth."

There was more bad news about the abuse and neglect of children as Ontario released disturbing new statistics. In an interim task force report, deputy chief coroner James Cairns revealed that 62 children under the age of 16 in Ontario died between 1981 and 1995 from other than natural causes. Twenty-one of those deaths were caused by accidents, 12 by sudden infant death syndrome, 12 by homicide, eight by sudden unexpected death and six by suicide (the cause of one remains undetermined). For all those categories, except SIDS and the one unrelated cause, the death rate is slightly higher than the general population. By most of the families, Cairns noted, the children were under supervision because of neglect, not physical or sexual abuse. But Children's Aid societies have little authority to intervene in cases of neglect and the task force recommended that they be granted new powers to protect such children. The study group was set up last year after a rash of child deaths in New Brunswick, British Columbia and Ontario focused attention on the actions of child protection agencies in those provinces. Meanwhile, Toronto police released an internal survey showing that there have been about 10,000 investigations into the physical, sexual or negligent abuse of children over the past three years.

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OKLAHOMA: The reckoning



ON
ASSIGNMENT
ANDREW PHILLIPS
IN OKLAHOMA CITY

There are few events that touch people so deeply (and forever alter their take on each other, what you want) where were you when John F. Kennedy was assassinated, when John Lennon was shot? For the people of Oklahoma City, the question will always be: where were you at 9:02 on the morning of April 19, 1995?

Paul Henth knows exactly where he was when a truck packed with 2,200 kg of high explosive blew up and destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in the center of town. "Right there," he says, pointing at a blurry photograph of the crumpled structure. The picture is mounted behind a chain-link fence that surrounds the bare plot of land where the Murrah building once stood. Oklahomans now refer to it simply as "the site," and every day hundreds of people come to walk quietly along the fence and leave a token of remembrance—a plastic flower, a scribbled poem, a stuffed animal, a tooth, a 60-year-old pencil case—with the U.S. Veterans Administration who was in his office in the Murrah building at 9:02 a.m., recall every detail. "Two on the fifth floor, right there, on the right side of the building. That night I got back from where the floor collapsed. I didn't even get blown off my feet. Lucky? I suppose so."

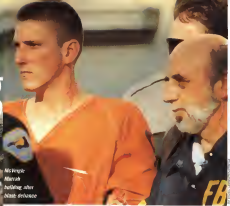
Many others were not. The blast killed 168 people, making it the deadliest act of domestic terrorism in American history. Some 680 others were injured, and a gaping hole remains in the heart of the city. Half a dozen other buildings—the YMCA, a Methodist church, the office of the state water board—remain shattered. Parking lots with cars crushed from asphalt rattle across where other buildings, too damaged to save, were bulldozed. Even after two years, it is not easy to put the bombing out of one's mind in Oklahoma City, and starting this week it will be hard to ignore. As the trial of the chief suspect, 35-year-old Timothy McVeigh, opens in Denver, the survivors and those who still mourn husbands, wives, children and friends will relive the disaster. "There's a great deal of anxiety—and for good reason," says Robert Johnson, chairman of a city commission overseeing plans for a memorial to the victims.

Part of the anxiety comes from what will surely be the graphic nature of some early evidence—documenting the firestorm in the building and the injuries suffered by those inside. In the days before the trial, officials met privately with family members of some of those who died. After the bombing, the families were told that their loved ones were killed instantly and it was a mercy. So, of those who tragically in the building lingered for well hours, and off-



icials had to tell their families the truth rather than let them hear it through news reports. "It has created a psychological nightmare," says Green Allen, director of Project Heartland, which counsels survivors and families of victims. "Other families are worrying and, they're telling me the whole truth."

On the face of it, the government's case against McVeigh seems solid. Many details have become public in the past two years, and they seem to present strong evidence that the onetime welder and longtime supporter of anti-government causes was at the center of the bombing. McVeigh and the man authorities say plotted with him, 43-year-old Terry Nichols, face 11 charges of conspiracy and murder. McVeigh will be tried first; Nichols's trial will follow immediately after—and prosecutors are seeking the death penalty



McVeigh
Murrah
building after
blast evidence

Prosecutors ready formidable evidence against accused bomber Tim McVeigh



Survivor Weath at the site: anxiety over reliving the disaster

for both men. The government plans to present a trial of evidence showing that McVeigh rented the Ryder truck that carried the bomb in Junction City, Kan., on April 17, 1995, then drove it to Oklahoma City, parked it in front of the Murrah building, triggered the bomb and walked away.

The government's physical evidence includes a receipt for 900 kg of ammonium nitrate, the type of fertilizer that was mixed with kerosene to make the bomb. It was found at Terry Nichols's home in Decatur, Mich., and, say prosecutors, bears McVeigh's fingerprints. Lab tests revealed traces of the explosive on McVeigh's clothing, as well as a knife and capgrip found on him when he was arrested.

On April 19, 1995—two years to the day of the Murrah bombing. And inside McVeigh's car when he was arrested, 30 minutes after the Oklahoma City blast, was an excerpt from *The Turner Diaries*, the 1978 novel by white supremacist leader William Pierce that describes a truck bomb attack on FBI headquarters in Washington. The pamphlet is striking in *The Turner Diaries*, Army activist Earl Turner drives a truck loaded with 3000 kg of ammonium nitrate and fuel into a garage under the FBI building at 9:15 a.m.

Nonetheless, McVeigh has decidedly played out a plot in general manufacturing, his lawyer, Stephen Jones, has indicated the broad lines of his defense strategy. He will suggest that there were two Ryder trucks involved—and that the one that blew up was not the one McVeigh drove. He will seize on recent revelations about sloppy practices in the FBI's crime laboratories to cast doubt on the prosecution's physical evidence. And he will attack the credibility of Barlett, who has admitted using illegal drugs in the months before the bombing and has an obvious motive in covering the blame.

Most importantly, Jones will assert that McVeigh could not have built and delivered the bomb alone—and will suggest that someone big got darker conspiracy may be involved. His investigators have looked for evidence that McVeigh is just a pawn in an extensive plot ranging as far as the Middle East and as close as a mysterious religious compound called Elohim City in the hills of eastern Oklahoma, run by Canadian-born Robert M. Jones (see page 34). And who, Jones will ask, is the mysterious John Doe No. 3 that the government sought in connection with the case for 19 months—until finally delivering in June a man that he was actually a former soldier named Todd Downing who had nothing to do with the bombing? Jones seems to be taking a leaf from O. J. Simpson's defense team: plant so many seeds of doubt about the government's case that some jurors will have a reasonable

Phase records allegedly show that McVeigh made calls to hotel and chemical companies to inquire about buying materials that could be used to make a bomb, and to the garage that rented the Ryder truck.

All that evidence is circumstantial—but the prosecution intends to bolster it with testimony from a mechanic across locally at McVeigh named Michael Fortier. Fortier has cut a deal with the government. He has been allowed to plead guilty to four lesser counts, including knowing about the conspiracy but not informing authorities. In return, he will tell the jury that he and McVeigh caused the Murrah building four months before the explosion, and that McVeigh used soap cans in Fortier's house to demonstrate how he would stack barrels of explosive for maximum effect.

Finally, the government will try to document McVeigh's alleged motive for the attack—his hatred for the U.S. federal government. He was a gun enthusiast who moved steadily in the right, eventually embracing the views of the extremist Patriot movement, which considers the federal government illegitimate and part of a plot to deprive Americans of their freedoms. Like other extreme right-wingers, he was obsessed with the federal authorities' assault on the Branch

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doubt about McVeigh's guilt—or at least about condemning him to death. "There are still so many questions out there," Jones has said. "Who is the mastermind? Who financed it?"

Mariah Knight's kitchen table in a northwestern suburb of Oklahoma City groans under the weight of a computer, printer and piles of documents. For her and others whose lives were shattered by the bombing, the focus on McVeigh as the trial opens can be infuriating. Knight's 23-year-old daughter, Frankie Merrell, died in the Murrah building, and since then Knight has campaigned for the rights of victims and survivors of the disaster. The pain of the past two years

is etched on her face, she sucks on cigarettes and fields a stream of phone calls. "For the first six months, Igrieve'd and I drank too much," she says quietly. "I knew I had to do something cathartic or risk destroying my family."

Night threw herself into the survivors' cause. The group's leader, Families and Survivors United, promised when Justice got the trial moved to St. Denver after successfully arguing that no surviving family could be found in Oklahoma. Night's group persuaded District Court Judge Richard Matsch to permit a closed-circuit TV feed that will allow survivors to watch the trial as special locations in Denver.

U.S. District Judge John Jay ruled that the U.S. has no public television stations. And Night lobbied Congress to amend the 3500 Video Rights Act to allow victims to attend a trial even if they plan to testify when the jury later weighs what sentence to impose on a convicted person. Last week, after the measure passed both houses of Congress in just 11 days, Matsch ruled that survivors and families may indeed attend all phases of McVay's trial. "We did not intend for the accused, and his lawyers, to be the only ones watching," she said.

The identities of the survivors may be determined—but they are hardly needed. About half those who survived the bombing are back at work, the rest have retired, taken disability leave, or quit. Some are so convinced that authorities are covering up important evidence that they are suing the federal government. Thirty-four victims are seeking \$25 million each, claiming that government agencies, including the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, had enough warning about threats to federal buildings in Oklahoma City that they should have taken steps to prevent the attack. The lawsuit names other survivors, most of whom are federal employees.

One of the movers behind the court action is a 60-year-old accountant named Gino Wilburta. His grandson, three-year-old Chase and his two-year-old sister, were among the 15 children who died in the American Kids day care centre on the second floor of the Manhattan building "William and Mary Lodge 43," here refused to accept the government's "late bomber" theory—in essence, that McVeigh acted on his own, with some help from Nichols. They have resolved to find the truth by any means necessary. They have teamed up with an independent journalist, J. D. Cook, and interviewed dozens of witnesses who, they say, suggest that the bombing was much more complicated than the government is claiming.

Athletes distrust the Wilburtas as conspiracy mongers. But their grand son Chase and Colson, who lived with them and their daughter, daughter Julie Smith, are friends and in need of answers. The Wilburtas' address is 178 West 92nd Street, New York City. It is a modest apartment far from the city's excitement and racial violence. Their ageing white wife houses a black man, Eric A. Cole with three daughters and a handsome

Intrikes to the boys from friends and strangers: portraits, quilts, poems. Kathy Wilburn has preserved the boys' bedroom as it was on the day they left, as usual, for the day care centre. Stuffed animals are piled on twin beds, the cupboards are full of clothes and toys even candy wrappers the boys hid on the floor are carefully preserved. She has told the story many times, but her voice still catches. "They could walk back in and it would be the same," she says.

Green Wilburn says his inquiries have concerned him for two things: that the government knew that a bombing was planned, and that others besides his friend were involved. He says he has no serious doubts as to whether or not his friend was at the Murrah building on the day the Oklahoma City truck blew up—suggesting that authorities had prior warning. The manner of the design they were warned, and that a bomb squad was present.) And, says Wilburn, his doubts have led him that five men were with his brother at the morning of April 19, 1995. He believes that the suspect the government first sought, then discarded, was apostle Billy a Philadelphia man named Michael Thomas, recently charged with involvement in a string of bank robberies planned by a white supremacist group called the Jay Republicans. After other inquiries have led Wilburn to conclude that the government did not have had an informant among the plotters, he ended his end of the beating. "They scared us, but they want to bury that thing," he says.

Wilhelm's passion has led him to develop ties to far-right groups, which, for their own reasons, also believe that the Murrah bombing was part of a wider plot. He does not believe the conspiracy theories himself, but he says federal agencies have covered up their mistakes before—and should now.

theory is that the compound is a focal point for members of the PLO who are in the neighborhood of the mosque and might have been involved in a plan to attack the March building.

McWright's trial is expected to last well into the summer. But what ever the outcome, it is unlikely to put to rest all the questions. Federal murder trials are rare in the United States, and Oklahoma was the only state that has ever had a federal murder trial. So it is not surprising how the case closely worries that the appeals process may drag on to many years. Colorado juries are also hesitant to pronounce the death penalty, and neither law nor custom has ever found juries in the state to do so. In Oklahoma state court, Chief Justice J. Gordon Linder has pledged to keep a close vigil when he calls the federal "coverup of the bombing" and a local prosecutor, Robert May, is already laying plans to file McWright and Nichols on state charges after the federal courts have done with them. "I just hope there's a resolution in my lifetime," says gas station owner Hal Welch, whose 2-year-old daughter, Julie, was killed in the Murrah building. "There are powers who are going to retire, and I don't know who's going to take their place." Oklahoma still has few constant reminders of where they were on 9/11: on April 19, 1995, a

Right (left): Kathy and Glenn Wilburn. They screwed up



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WORLD UNITED STATES

The City of God mystery

Did a Canadian ultra-rightist in Oklahoma have links with McVeigh?

BY ANDREW PHILLIPS

There is, first of all, the Worship House—a white-roofed building that looks as though it could be the dwelling place of forest creatures in a Wagnerian opera. Inside, the people of a reclusive religious community turned Elohim City gather every day just before noon to worship and listen to an unauthorized message preached by their leader, Robert Miller. It is a long way from Kitchener, Ont., where Miller was born 71 years ago, to the Dark Mountains on the eastern edge of Oklahoma, where Elohim City is to be found at the end of a 10-km dirt road. The route dips and dives before stopping abruptly at a remarkable collection of buildings that include trailers set on concrete foundations and a few more substantial houses. Despite its grandiose name—Elohim City of God in Hebrew—Elohim City is not much to look at. But for Miller and his 100 followers, it is special. “This is where I think the Father wants me to be,” he says. “And I’m happy to be here.”

Miller’s brand of worship is certainly unusual. The people of Elohim City believe the year starts at the spring equinox, so on March 20 they hold a party to welcome in the new year. Their day starts at noon, and they

celebrate Christmas between Sept. 20 and Oct. 3. Miller (pronounced MEE-AY) believes in Christian Identity—a fundamentalist belief with the central tenet that God’s chosen people are not the Jews but the white peoples of northern Europe. Miller’s flock even follows the Old Testament dietary laws, avoiding pork and shellfish. For most of the 24 years since Miller moved to the Dark Mountains, Elohim City was just a curiosity in the hills—one of scores of unorthodox religious communities across America. But since the deadly attack on the Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City two years ago, Miller has been leading off pointed inquiries about the links of some of his followers to far-right political groups, and possibly to accused bomber Timothy McVeigh himself. For many who have followed the case closely, Miller is not just an eccentric. He is a sinister force who knows much more than he is willing about what was behind the bombing.

But relaxing as a reclining chair inside a



MILLER, far right, a sinister force

says it is the “Sophisticated, Celtic, Anglo-Saxon and Germanic peoples” who are the direct descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Hebrew prophets. He calls himself a “racist” and opposes interracial marriage—but he insists that he and true followers of Christian Identity do not teach white supremacy. “If God has chosen a people,” he says, sitting on grape juice and nibbling sweet cakes, “they have a greater responsibility to serve all the nations, not to dominate them.”

Nonetheless, many adherents of Christ

The Worship House: a message based on race

comfortable trailer home at Elohim City, so dark gobers over the quiet hills, Miller seems far from threatening. He people call him Grandpa—as much for his sunny-faced, Santa-like appearance as for the fact that he is related by blood or marriage to nearly half of them. His story is a personal odyssey on the fringes of religious life, following his upbringing as a Messianic in Kitchener. In 1967, after preaching across Canada with the Messianites, he had a “dangerous spiritual experience,” he recalls—one that started him on his lifelong path. He had visions of riots and of missiles bursting forth from beneath the sea—long before there were nuclear submarines able to launch them. He found himself speaking spontaneously in “classical Arabic.” Miller is still convinced that his apocalyptic vision fore-shadowed destruction to come. “I think we’ll have a breakdown of our infrastructure,” he predicts. “I think we’ll have race riots and civil war, and armed internationalism will erupt in the United States.”

Miller left Canada for the United States in 1962, although he still keeps his Canadian citizenship, and since 1958 has preached the gospel of Christian Identity to followers—experts estimate their number at perhaps 30,000—quite scripture to bolster their belief that white Christians are God’s chosen people. Miller himself

is the “Sophisticated, Celtic, Anglo-Saxon and Germanic peoples” who are the direct descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Hebrew prophets. He calls himself a “racist” and opposes interracial marriage—but he insists that he and true followers of Christian Identity do not teach white supremacy. “If God has chosen a people,” he says, sitting on grape juice and nibbling sweet cakes, “they have a greater responsibility to serve all the nations, not to dominate them.”

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ian identity openly condemn Jews and claim they are part of a conspiracy to enslave the world. As identity groups in Colorado run by an outspoken antisemite, Peter Peters, Steve Jones "Nazis" and "Christ's and Christ's Jew's principal enemies." Nationally, the sect may be small and obscure, but it has become an important religious underpinning of the right-wing "Patriot" movement that includes armed militias and survival groups and considers the U.S. federal government illegitimate. Susan McClung, who tracks Christian identity for the mainstream Christian Association of Churches, says it has picked up support among farmers and ranchers devastated by losing their land to foreclosure—and they try to buy into a theory that links their troubles to a worldwide Jewish conspiracy led by Jews. The belief, she says, sanctifies violence against higher government authority. "Someone who is deeply into Christian identity is much more likely to commit an act of violence. Identity places them above the law of the land. They're following the laws of God."

That is the mindset that, according to prosecutors, may have led McVeigh to attack the Murrah building and the federal employees inside it. But there is a more intricate web of connections between Elkhart City and the extreme right. It begins with an earlier scheme to bomb the Murrah building, going back as far as 1983. According to Klawnschick, a group based in Montgomery, Ala., that monitors the extreme right, two white supremacists, Earl Sells and James Ellison, plotted that year to attack the building. Both were members of a Christian Identity group in northern Arkansas called The Covenant, the Sword and the Arm of the Lord. Sells was later convicted of murdering a black police officer and was executed on the night of April 19, 1985—the day the bomb hit Elkhart. Ellison, who had become Sells's spiritual adviser, he visited him in prison on the day of his death and took him body back to Elkhart City, where it is buried.

Ellison later served time on prison on weapons charges. He eventually married an "alt-right" girl, and his daughter lives at Elkhart City. Miller says he doubts that Ellison ever actively plotted to attack the Murrah building. But he concedes, "he was asked to design the type of weapons or rockets that could destroy a building. I don't think he ever did it." The timing of the bombing has led some people—including Glenn Wilburn, a conservative columnist whose two grandsons died in the Murrah building's day-care centre—to spec-

ulate that Sells's execution might have been the trigger. "It may have been a gangway present for Richard Sells," says Wilburn, who has conducted his own extensive investigation into the bombing.

Wilburn and McVeigh's defense lawyer, Stephen Jones, are among those who have looked into other ties between Elkhart City and the bombing. McVeigh made two phone calls on a charge card issued by the right-wing group Liberty Lobby to the compound in the days before the bombing. He was apparently trying to reach Andreas Strassmair,



a German-born socialist who lived there for two years. Strassmair has said that he met McVeigh at a gun show in 1993, and gave him a card from Elkhart City. There is no proof that McVeigh ever visited, but Wilburn and journalist J. D. Cash say he was there many times under the pseudonym Tim Tittle. Miller says he does not remember meeting the lone young assailant, but acknowledges that "he could have come without my knowledge."

The plot—there is one—discloses Cash bases some of his assertions on an interview he conducted with a Tulsa, Okla., woman named Carol Howe, who says she met McVeigh at Elkhart City several months before the bombing. How, as federal authorities acknowledge, spent time at the compound as a paid informant for the Bureau of

Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. She says she heard about plans to attack the Murrah building at Elkhart City, and passed that on to the ATF. Others who spent time at Elkhart City, according to Klawnschick, include Kevin McCarty, Scott Scottfield and Mike Hard Brown—all recently charged in connection with an alleged conspiracy by members of the far-right Army Republican Army to commit bank robberies.

All that may well be circumstantial, but it is enough to lend a large and growing web of theories about Elkhart City in the bombing. Miller responds that his columnists just wanted to be left alone in the fall—just as he



A hero at Elkhart City, according to Miller, "wasn't in a counterproductive" way.

ing dragged into the controversy. The fact that Howe was an ATF informant, he says, shows that some parts of the government would like to provide information to people like those at Elkhart City to take part in riot actions and then use that as an excuse to crack down on them. He remembers Howe as holding "no real racist views," and adds: "She was sent here to expose some of our more extreme or unstable elements to do something illegal. That's dangerous—we can't want another 'Ries.' But, he says, "I didn't transfer her back in information. We had nothing to do." Local law enforcement officials, in fact, say they have half-life trouble with Elkhart City.

As for the bombing itself, Miller condemns it. "Terrorism is always wrong," he says. "It serves no purpose." The question he wants here is whether some of the people around him disappeared—and were prepared to do something about it.

Dateline



TEIGNMOUTH, ENGLAND

By Bruce Wallace

An English seaside whodunit

I was not ahead of the fishermen who tried the English Channel to pull a human body in with their catch. "You get your accidents, your accidents, they all come up eventually," says harbor master Reg. Matthews, 65, smiling on his office chair in the

city port of Teignmouth on the south Devon coast. "But guys often throw 'em back overboard," he adds with a wink, "because they don't want the hassle of dealing with the police and the coroner. It costs them money—the legal business runs time away from fishing." Last October may have been on busy fishermen John Copie's mind last week, as he stood in the witness box of a Teignmouth courtroom wearing a suit and tie of all things and answering questions about a body he did not throw back. If the shipper could not be on the water, he was at least going to have some fun at the expense of those barristers with previous accents, men who did not know how from stern and who referred to nautical charts as "maps."

Copie had been fishing with his son Crisp—accused! The fish—on the day in question, and the fishing had not been good. "So I had a go at the boy cause it was obviously his fault so wasn't catching anything." Copie smiled slightly at his own joke, and returned to the witness box and a half hour later when the act came up again, it was full of fish—and something black lying on top of the catch. At first, Copie thought it was "a dolphin or a porpoise that had died." But dolphins don't wear green canvas pants and Calvin Klein underwear. Copie turned to his son and said, "I think we have a body here." But? Replied the son later. "Unless he can hold his breath for 20 hours, I believe you're right."

But for the Rolex watch on one wrist, the waterlogged body of Copie's son never had been identified. The watch's serial number allowed police to identify the son as Ian John Platt, 31-year-old English businessman. The corpse had a pink on its neck and bruises on a hip and knee, and police eventually came to believe Platt was murdered. It is now known as the "Rolex case" in Teignmouth, a decaying

beach resort where fishermen wonder aloud why Copie did not just keep the watch and dump the body, and where a magistrate ruled last week that there was enough evidence to put Canadian fugitive Albert John Walker on trial for Platt's murder.

A businessman from Paris, Ont., Walker fled to England in 1980 with his then 15-year-old daughter, Sherrie, after allegedly hitting prostitutes out of millions of dollars. When he was arrested last fall at his home in the United States, he was charged with



Boys, Walker, a fugitive, a murder and a whiff of scandal!

drugs, whose paternity has not been formally disclosed, he was Canada's most wanted man—and fourth on Interpol's list. The case against Walker is "a story of some complications," an prosecutor James Townsend understated. Walk on the run in England, Walker befriended Platt and his girlfriend, Elaine. Boys, ultimately convincing the couple to move to Canada in 1983. Walker and his daughter then adopted the English couple's identities. But when Platt and Boys moved on Canada and returned to England, the threat of exposure may have proved too great, according to the prosecutor. "It is difficult to conceive of a stronger motive for the defendant to get rid of Platt, who returned to this country to hunt him," argued Townsend in his opening statement.

The prosecutor then offered a stream of evidence apparently linking the Canadian to Platt's disappearance. The two men were seen drinking together in Devon shortly before Platt drowned. Substantiated alibi data on Walker's last, The Lady Jane, placed the boat near where the body emerged about the time Platt was believed to have died. Traces of the victim's blood and hair were found on The Lady Jane. And police confirmed that a 4 1/2-in., heart-shaped pool scarred that came upon Copie's watch with the body was Walker's, from The

Lady Jane. They argue that Walker, attached to Platt's belt and sent him over the side to his sea bottom.

The cold, grey steel anchor set in a table in the courtroom last week, surrounded by stacks of witness statements, directly in front of Walker. But the accused seemed oblivious to the presence of the alleged murder weapon. Over three days of testimony, his head seldom moved, only his eyes shifted between the barristers and witnesses. He was always cool, with the air of a man who believes he will be acquitted. During one prolonged lull in the proceedings, he reclined in the courtroom while reporters scribbled just inches away, none loudly complaining that the prosecution denied them some fireworks by depicting last week's Walker as a cold, calculating, cold-blooded killer. "He was a witness," the accused spat his last words easily, shaming the female court officer assigned to guard him, gently touching her arm and waving her smiles as he told her a story.

The preliminary hearing provided hints of how sensational Walker's fall trial promised to be when it comes, probably in the fall. The case has the dash of a classic whodunit—a fugitive, unidentified identities, a murder case, and a body that resurfaced unexpectedly, dragging the murder weapon behind. And it has a colorful supporting cast—as Copie's appearance showed—some desperate police direction and the whiff of scandal. But did and all the great theories, the prosecutor once barely left in Teignmouth last week—that of Ronald Platt, a man the prosecutor described as "shy and lonely" and whom Albert Walker had once dismissed as a "no-hoper." □

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WORLD ZAMBIA

A future Mobutu?

**A 'liberator'
uses disturbing
methods**

Like so many of his countrymen, Wilson Wanga cleared rebel fighters as they marched into his home town of Gombe last November. The rebels brought the promise of liberation from 31 years of corrupt rule by Zaire's offing dictator Mobutu Sese Sese, who has let the country slide into poverty while plundering vast riches for himself. But Wanga's hopes for a new, free nation have been sorely tested. His brother was killed by rebel troops, apparently because the widower wanted the motorcycle taxi he used to help support a household of seven. "It is difficult to celebrate freedom," Wilson said, sitting on a hard chair in the family's two-room shanty. "This is liberation, but it has left a stain on my heart that cannot be erased."

Rebel leader Laurent Kabila says the revolution he launched in September will transform Zaire's people. "We have been slaves for too long in our own country," he recently told 10,000 cheering supporters in Gombe, a strategic town on Zaire's eastern border where he has set up headquarters. "Liberty, liberty," chants echoed to him in Kasanga, the key eastern city that led to his forces' real March. But with each new conquest, Kabila has tightened his control over his fief, which now amounts to about a quarter of the sprawling central African country. Last week, Kabila agreed to hold talks with Mobutu's government, but rejected a prior ceasefire. Given the rebels' success and Mobutu's debilitating prostate cancer, few observers believed Kabila would agree to give up his drive towards the distant, but increasingly chaotic, capital of Kinshasa.

Kabila's tactics, however, have made many Zaireans wonder if under Mobutu is the making. The longtime Marxist declared a single-party state—at least ten



Kabila crowds in Kasanga; Kabila (left) lightening combat

perpetrators—until a government of his Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire can take hold. He has raised a few issues in the poverty-stricken region, saying they are to hand the revolution. And lands have been placed on the movement of people for "security" reasons. "When fighters for democracy use the same strong-arm tactics that were used by the regime they are trying to topple, you begin to wonder what it's really about," observes one Western diplomat. "On the other hand, the people seem so much more content than they did under the Zairean regime."

On Gombe's streets, the poor now have the hardships of war added to their troubles. But many still put their hopes on Kabila. "We have no money, no jobs. Life is not easy," says 31-year-old Kyem Nimbale, who sells fried bread near the lakeside palace that once belonged to Mobutu. "But at least now, Mobutu's soldiers are not stealing food!" Among the middle-aged, ragged-looking, bare-chested men who sell rice, beans, and car tires, balloons and gasoline, Kabila, who now



Allen, The Dexter Model

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Up in Dexter, Maine, there is no subway. Not even a bus. But no-one seems to mind walking (since you meet people better that way). This is a place where three generations of family have crafted shoes, so they've become extremely particular about what they put onto their feet. And the folks of Dexter have always viewed going barefoot as an act of disrespect. Though we are told town records have yet to show anyone being arrested for it.

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WORLD

renders in the palace at the end of the road, driven along almost daily when he is in town. "He may see us, but he is too busy," said the merchant nostalgically.

Some observers contend that Kabila is not fighting for a people, but rather for control of the rich diamond and mineral mines that under Mobutu's fortune. But others believe Kabila—who has fought for democracy since he joined a failed uprising in 1964—really is trying to give his vast, resource-rich land a chance to flourish. A robust man with a characteristic smile and a booming, cheerful laugh, Kabila is a natural leader whose charm is sweeping the country almost as fast as his troops. He won that once he defeats the Kimbese, opportunity awaits his people.

But reform after decades of chaos and corruption is no easy task. "You can change a government, but you can't change the people," says a longtime aid worker in eastern Zaire. "They were robbed and frightened by their own soldiers, and so they learned to cheat to survive." Aid workers say they have confirmed reports of looting being conducted for use by the Alliance, and the disappearance of people that the new administrators distrust. One woman in Goma, who declined to give her name, said soldiers forced her from her home when she refused to leave. "Who can I protest to?" she asked. "If you don't have a family member in government, then nobody can help you." Neighbors of another man—who was too afraid to comment—said both his brother and son were killed by rebel soldiers.

Under Mobutu, hundreds of his political opponents "disappeared" over the years. Kabila's acting information minister, Raphael Ghenda, says that any acts of violence under the new regime are likely carried out by bandits, dressed in uniforms to embarrass the rebel movement. Kabila's men also demand respect for the people, says Ghenda, and demand the freedom of movement for thousands of abandoned refugees and Zairians they suspected of assisting Mobutu's quickly retreating troops.

Kabila has said that he does not plan to rule Zaire, but instead will hand power to an elected leader. Still, members of his government say it will be a while before Zairians are a country-wide vote. "The people will elect leaders at a local level that will take care of them during the transition, while the Alliance will take care of the country at a national level," said Mawumpanga Mwanga Nangwa, Kabila's U.S.-educated economic minister. "We cannot hold elections [immediately]. It would only fracture the country."

There is no doubt that Kabila has won widespread popularity. Now that his military seems poised for victory, the question is whether he can hold the dream he has awakened in his people.

DIANNA CARIN in Goma

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World NOTES

RUSSIAN ANGER

Almost two million Russians took part in hundreds of protests across the country, many waving red Communist flags and calling for the resignation of President Boris Yeltsin. Government workers are owed \$12 billion in back pay, and thousands have had no income for months.

IRELAND ON THE AGENDA

The IRA skinned responsibility for bombing two railway lines in northwestern England, causing no injuries. Analysts said the violence was aimed at putting Ireland's stalled peace talks on the agenda in the current British election campaign.

TROOPS TO ALBANIA

Italy urged the United Nations to approve a multinational force to protect oil fields in war-torn Albania. An estimated 5,000 troops are to come from European countries. The first UN-led peacekeeping force since the crisis erupted in January resigned to fight Albania from Greece.

CHAOS IN NEW GUINEA

Julien soldiers in Papua New Guinea killed off 10 days of protests and ended a blockade of Port Moresby after looting the resignation of Prime Minister Julius Chan. The uprising began last month over a \$40-million government contract for South African and British mercenaries to fight rebels.

KING-FAMILY BACKS RAY

In a televised meeting in a New York hotel, the son of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. absolved the man convicted in 1969 of assassinating his father, Dr. King. King told James Earl Ray, 49, and dying of liver cancer, that his family now believed Ray is innocent. The King family wants a trial to allow Ray—who recorded his guilty plea after he was sentenced—to clear his name.

A DEADLY BOMBING

At least 18 people were killed and 53 injured as two successive bombs blasted a bus station in the northern region of Kashmir in India. Indian and Pakistani officials were meeting at the time in New Delhi in an attempt to ease tensions in the troubled region, where Muslim rebels are fighting for an independent state. India controls two-thirds of Kashmir, with Pakistan controlling the rest.



ON THE FRONT LINE: A Canadian soldier guards Haiti's Parliament against protesters angry over massive job losses expected from President René Préval's privatization plans. Ottawa last week agreed to send Canada's more than 750 personnel in the Caribbean country until the end of 1997, beyond the UN deployment's current July 31 deadline. Insiders blame former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide for recent violence that has killed 50 people.

A Middle East trust in tatters

The level of trust between Israeli and Palestinian leaders sank to its lowest point in years as U.S. negotiator Dennis Ross ended two days of shuttle diplomacy in the Middle East with no breakthrough. Israeli Palestinian peace talks have been frozen since building began on March 28 at the Aza Bore, a controversial Jewish housing project on the edge of East Jerusalem. Palestinian firing over since has brought back the memory of the 69-year-old conflict, which ended in 1994, after the Madrid peace process. "One thing is clear," Ross said as he wrapped up last week's mission. "It is essential to re-establish talks as a way to move forward the process."

Palestinian police did cooperate with Israeli troops in an effort to calm the unrest. Meanwhile, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was meeting Arab and Islamic leaders in Tunis. He called for united measures—possibly severance of diplomatic ties with Israel—to force Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to back down from his hardline policies. Netanyahu, who pointedly blames Arafat's earlier rhetoric for the heavy deaths of three Jewish women in a Tel Aviv cafe last month, demanded an immediate crackdown on "terrorism" operating from autonomous Palestinian regions. Only a "basic change" by the Palestinians would put the peace process back on course, he said.

Sex and sleaze on Britain's campaign trail

Britain's long-reigning Conservative Party—badly trailing Labour in the campaign for May 1 election—was further battered by headlines of sex and sleaze. Former junior minister Tim Smith withdrew from the race, acknowledging he accepted cash in exchange for raising particular issues in Parliament. The tabloid *Sun* newspaper printed photos of former MP Piers Merchant kissing a blond 17-year-old nightclub hostess, whom he called a friend "helping with my campaign." And former minister Alan Stewart suffered a serious breakdown two days after stepping down as a candidate when news reports linked him successfully to a married woman.

In California and Quebec, 44 die for the promise of salvation

First, they packed their suitcases steady and dressed themselves in black—altars, pants and turtlene shirts. Then, one by one over a period of several days, they ate applesauce or pudding laced with a barbiturate and chased it with vodka. Finally, again one by one, they lay down in a cots or bunk beds and, joyfully believing they were destined to rendezvous with a heaven-bound UFO, put plastic bags over their heads to insure a death. Two members of the Heaven's Gate cult remained alone to remove the plastic bags, drape the 37 bodies in purple shrouds and tidy up. Then, they killed themselves the same way. And when police, acting on a telephone tip, entered the remote California mansion last week, the appalling scene they stumbled upon and then recorded on videotape stunned millions around the world. "A total catastrophe is that this was an inconceivably planned mass suicide," said San Diego County medical examiner Brian Hahn.

The 38 women and 18 men of Heaven's Gate, many of them computer programmers who called themselves monks, are the most recent victims of charismatic, self-styled messiahs who claim that group suicide leads to spiritual rewards. They may have already been killing themselves on March 28 when, near Quebec City, five



Removing corpses: cosmic destiny

When the spacecraft failed to appear the following year, the pilgrims became fed up. "He" and "Prep," an Applewhite and Nettles then called themselves, were subsequently jailed briefly for possessing stolen credit cards. Afterwards, they continued on their mission while sending publicity that in 1983, Applewhite and his followers—Nettles died some years previously—appeared in Chicago and he resumed preaching. On one of the videotapes sent to Matarikos's employee, Applewhite said, "We have no hesitation to leave this place, to leave the bodies that we have."

As outbursts as their reasoning may sound, it stimulated discussion in various circles. The Atlanta-based magazine *Angel Times* took issue with the cultists' claim to be angels. When angels visit people to offer help or convey a message, said editor Victor Lindis Kaplan, they disappear at twilight. "Their bodies, if these guys were truly angels, they would not leave their bodies behind," she said. James Lovelock of Atlanta, who preaches that the peoples of northern Europe are the lost tribes of Israel, said the concept of space travel was not in odds with the Bible, "though whether there's a spaceship hiding behind a comet I wouldn't know."

Meanwhile, scientists at computers and psychology worried of the impact of the Internet on imagination and the emotions. "In many ways we're not creating a great machine that is penetrating more and more of our lives," said San Francisco-based writer Erik Dinos. "In that sense there's something like a terrestrial god who it." While the Internet is in some respects "the climate technology, at the same time it resurrects an older looking about liberation from the body, about moving into a virtual fortynights." It was possible, he



Shrouded body: all in the Level Above Heaven

HEAVEN CULTS

members of the Solar Temple cult died by suicide in a house fire (page 49). And experts suggest that delusional preachers are no longer the only leaders lying in wait for the nerve and audacity the Internet may have become so peddle to the as the expression of their ill-fated quest for spiritual rewards.

The Heaven's Gate commune, led by former choirleader Marshall Applewhite, rented the 400-square-ft mansion for the exclusive Rancho Santa Fe estate last October from businessman Sam Kautzsch for \$10,000 a month. When Steven, the owner's lawyer, would later tell reporters that at the estate, testifying, non-smoking friends belonged to a religious computer group and believed they were angels. "We didn't know them," said Virginia Ingham, a neighbor. "We never saw them." But Nick Matarikos, owner of a computer company called Internet Entertainment, said he had met about 25 cult members who had designed some Internet Web pages for him. They talked, Matarikos said, of the comet Hale-Bopp, which is currently visible in the night sky. They explained to one that they believed there was a UFO following behind that comet and using it as a shield so it could not be detected by Earth and that that UFO may very well be the one to take them away.

On the night of March 28, a Matarikos employee and former cult member identified only as Rio got a parcel from the group containing two videotapes and a note saying the members had committed suicide. The tapes showed them, coldly in high spirits, saying goodbye. Matarikos said the letter explained that by the time it was read, "they will have already, as they described it,



Applewhite: a former head of UFO

of what they thought might be poison gas. It turned out to be the stretch of rubber bodies.

Thirty driveways and crime lab technicians wearing surgical masks and rubber gloves found the victims lying on their backs, with hands and eyes open, eyes closed at their sides. Each had packed a 55-gal and some change. They ranged in age from the early 20s to 72. The task force San Diego County officials was made aware by the fact that police found either birth certificates or driver's licenses on most of the cultists. One was identified as Calgary-born Erica Ernst, 40. Some of the men were old women showing that they had been castrated, presumably to ensure their celibacy. Applewhite, their 60-year-old leader who died with them, was the son of a Prostitution minister who worked as a church director at the University of Alabama in the 1960s. After a pair of test results with heart disease in the early 1970s, he left his wife and two children to embark on a nomadic life with Bonnie Nettles, a nurse he met during his conscription. "There was never a coming together in that we were bed partners," Applewhite said in a 1992 video taped message to his followers. "But there was something that conspired as to send me together and search together."

That search led them to devote their own faith, called "The Process," in which they presented themselves as heavenly messengers from outer space. In 1974, they persuaded a group of Oregon townpeople to give away all their possessions and their children, and travel with them to California to be "jacked up by a spaceship."

added, to "lose touch with this mundane physical reality."

And Margaret Singer, emerita professor of psychology at the University of California at Berkeley, and young people "spend hours in front of their computers, and the only thing that they have are other people on the computer. And they're open to being too trusting." Calls, she said, sought out "average, normal, bright people" who do not get "spooked out." Steve Schreyer, who sponsors hundreds of religious and cult Web sites in San Francisco, said cults often lured for computer-knowledgeable followers who could help make a cult self-sufficient. Heaven's Gate was a prime example, he said, because it earned money designing Web pages for other companies.

Yet the obscure opening statement in its own Web page provided little insight into the lives and motivation of Heaven's Gate's mystical members. "Whether Hale-Bopp has a 'companion' or not is irrelevant from our perspective. However, its arrival is possibly very significant to us," said the Web manifesto. "Hale-Bopp's approach is the 'warrior' we've been waiting for—the time for the arrival of the spacecraft from the Level Above Heaven to take us home."

ROSE COMBELL with JANE GAGGARD in Los Angeles

DEADLY VOYAGES

BY BRENDA BRANSWELL

Even before the deadly fire, the Order of the Solar Temple still loomed in the public consciousness. Baked on the cult's surface last fall, sparked by its notorious history, and a documentary film aired on a French-language television network on March 22. Ironically, that was the same day that flames shot through a two-story house in St. Coeur, 80 km west of Quebec City, leaving behind yet another testament to the cult's horrific hold on its adherents. Inside the charred home, police found enormous paraphernalia, including walls, red and gold robes and an engraved sword—and five bodies. That brought to 74 the number of lives claimed by the horizons of sect since 1984. And even as authorities were being performed last week on the latest victims, some Quebec writers with the cult raised the possibility that the deadly Solar Temple saga is far from over. "My profound conviction," says Guy Fournier, who interviewed close to two dozen members of the Solar Temple in his recent book, *Centre de la mort*, "is that there will be other suicides."

It is a chilling prospect—and one that others familiar with the cult's troubled history do not rule out. The fire, St. Coeur suicides, or "departures" as they are known in the cult's lexicon, are the latest in a series of fiery deaths—"voyages" that adherents believe take them to the star Sirius. The cult catapulted to international notoriety after mass suicide murders in Mont-Blaug, Que., and Switzerland in 1984 claimed the lives of 53 people, including the cult's first man, Luc Joreau, a Belgian homeopath, and another leader, Joseph Di Manno, a Canadian. Other victims, many of them well-educated and successful, included the former mayor of Richelieu, Que., a Quebec City journalist, and a Byrd's Quebec vice president. A year later, 16 more people died in a second suicide murder in France. "What surprised me is that it didn't happen sooner," says Fournier of the latest deaths in St. Coeur. "There are still a lot of people who are disappointed not to have been called by the masters in 1984—who not have been part of the most dramatic voyage."

The voyage to Sirius was one that, apparently, three teenagers in St. Coeur did not want to make. Firefighters found them in a shed near the burning house where their parents, Didier Grosse and Chantal Goupil, along with Swiss-born Pierre Krumm and Pauline Krumm, a Quebecer, spent a smoke-inhalation after ingesting sedatives. Their grandmother, Suzanne Desnoe, died before the blaze, likely from a drug overdose. Perhaps as a warning to the death's was sent from police that Grosse and Goupil tried to isolate their children, two boys and a girl aged 13 to 16, in the



The St. Coeur house, Quebec police showing Solar Temple sword (left), charred bodies



Experts predict more Solar Temple ritual suicides

suicide pact. But the teenagers negotiated their survival after learning of the plan when an initial suicide attempt failed—just two days before the fire.

What actually happened inside the house during that two-day period remains largely a mystery. Police, citing confidentiality requirements, would only say that there were several arduous attempts to carry out the suicide by activating a fire-starting mechanism that consisted of an electric stove, propane tanks and gasifier containers. According to the police, all eight people in the house—unhiding the teens—were caught on video, although they refused to be more specific. This week, police will submit their report to the Crown prosecutor, who in turn will decide responsibility in the deaths and whether any charges should be laid. Meanwhile, the children, who are the first known survivors of a Solar Temple ritual death, remain under the care of Quebec youth protection authorities.

Little is known about their parents and the other victims. Grosse, 38, a native of Switzerland, shared the house with his French wife,

Goupil, 41, and their children, while running a bakery business in Cap-Rouge, 40 km from St. Coeur. Goupil's mother, Denise, lived nearby, and unlike the other four victims, was not a Solar Temple member. But Fournier, who interviewed Grosse last summer, says he felt he seemed unhappy and acted "like an orphan who has just lost his parents." According to Fournier, Grosse told him, "I'm asking myself the role I can still play on earth."

That reaction, says Fournier, was similar to what he heard from others who remained Solar Temple believers or sympathizers after the earlier mass suicides. And it certainly conforms to the experience of former member Hermann DeLoraine, who left the cult in 1985. DeLoraine, who identified guilty the following year to an illegal weapons charge, the was asked to buy pistols and silencers by a high-ranking Solar Temple member, believes that the St. Coeur victims felt lost without those who had previously died. After leaving the Solar Temple, DeLoraine says, "I felt that myself for a period of months—and I had only been involved for close to three years. Imagine how it must be for people that went eight, 10 and 15 years."

Much of that loyalty to the cult can be traced to the charismatic Joreau, who as well as being one of the Solar Temple's leaders also held seminars on personal development for business people. When he moved to Quebec in 1980, the Belgian brought many followers with him and attracted new ones in the province. Fournier believes that Joreau's popularity endures, despite his fail to encounter any

threats can do. "Stupidly has no success against it," Mehaud commented. Ropke's words governments to study the impact of religious movements that "go all the way out," but he also remains unsure of what can be done to prevent more deaths. "People are obliged to wanting to take their own lives, who are adults—I don't know if you can really stop them," he says.

There is, nonetheless, evidence that the Solar Temple tried to expand in 1993. Lenora Boyd, chairman of a provincial committee in Manitoba that monitors cult activity, says an individual who had been approached by Temple members in 1983 in Winnipeg turned up dead, claiming to have committed suicide. Boyd's mother, who she also recruited reports that the Temple had been spreading its message in other parts of Western Canada. These expansion plans appeared to have died with the 1984 fire, since then, Boyd says, there has been no evidence that the cult has been active outside Quebec. But she notes that there was one striking difference between the Solar Temple and other cults. In stead of targeting vulnerable people on the fringes of society, she says, the Temple was trying to attract wealthy individuals. "I remember thinking at the time," says Boyd, "that was unusual. But I don't think they were successful." As the fiery deaths in St. Coeur proved, however, the unpredictable Solar Temple cannot be relegated to the past tense.

By TOM PENNELL in Toronto

cult members who speak badly of him. "The people remain very attached to him and very attached to what he taught," Fournier says. DeLoraine, who first saw Joreau at a personal development conference, liked what he heard—and as a result ended up joining the cult. But eventually, he says, the experience soured his perceptions—especially Joreau's teachings that Solar Temple members were chosen to function as the conscience of the world—and that the rest of society constituted a "planet of fools." "Our eyes really got in the way of our logical thinking," DeLoraine says of the Solar Temple. "We weren't thinking logically or rationally any more. We thought we were superior beings."

Police estimate there are as many as 40 people in Quebec still linked to the Solar Temple. But last week, facing criticism for not monitoring the cult more closely, they maintained that they had no information suggesting any danger. Last June, during the summer solstice, they had lost Solar Temple members under surveillance after rumors surfaced of another impending ritual killing. But nothing happened, and police subsequently concluded that the cult was no longer an active movement. That conclusion is shared by Mike Kroppe, the executive director of Info-Cult, a Montreal-based resource centre on cult behavior. Kroppe's opinion is in no indication that the Solar Temple now has any organized formal structure in Quebec. But, he adds, "do people need? Obviously, some people did—as evidenced by what happened."

In the end, there is little consensus on what can be done to avoid future incidents. Some observers say the police cannot be expected to solve the problem. When Quebec coroner Roger Mehaud talked his report last June on the 1984 murder suicides, he said there were limits on what the au-

DOOM SECTS

False prophets attract the vulnerable

And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

—Matthew 24:11

Has followers when trembled in the pews when self-styled evangelist Jim Jones attracted Jews, God had spoken directly to him. In 1977, Jones went for them, convincing his wife the Jewish

and ripped out a piece of her intestine.

While it is hard for rational individuals to understand how madmen like Theriault can attract a following, many psychiatrists say there is no shortage of potential adherents, many suffering from depression or just plain loneliness. Leszka, author of *Devilish Deceptions*, which explains the attraction of cults, says the promise of complete acceptance

philosophy and charismatic leadership Steve Kadd, a minister with the Church of Jesus Christ in Nazareth and a consultant on cults, said the leaders all believed they were prophets who, through death, could take their followers to another level of existence. They also interpreted Chapter 24 of the Book of Matthew—in which Jesus discusses the destruction of Jerusalem and a future armageddon—as a doomsday script. With the world about to end, they told their followers, they had nothing to lose by embracing their own deaths. It was important most thinking people would reject, says Kadd, but it appeals to some troubled in doomsday who literally hand their lives over to their leaders. "All these doomsday cults believe they have a modern prophetic speaking directly to God," he says. "They believe that God is coming soon and the Earth is going to be destroyed."

Many observers also associate the current activities of cults with the approach of a new millennium. The end of one major time period and the beginning of another tends to provoke both anxiety and utopian expectations, says University of Toronto theologian David Reed. At the turn of the 20th century, he says, idealistic spiritual groups flourished and many people anticipated the end of the world and their sudden uplifting to heaven. "There are perceived cosmic dimensions to the end of a century in some people's minds," says Reed. "There are all sorts of predictions, especially by the doomsday or messianic expectations coverage that the great savior will come or that there's going to be a major upheaval."

Still, there is no evidence that membership in doomsday groups is growing very fast. Some cults' terrifying use of lethal technology—the huge arsenal amassed by Korek's Branch Dharma in Waco, for instance, or the deadly nerve gas released in the Tokyo subway system in 1995 by the doomsday group Aum Shinri Kyō (Supreme Truth)—has generated worldwide publicity. But Leszka says it may also have created a mistaken impression in many people's minds of a growing, widespread and immediate threat. While some of these cults' tactics have certainly become more dramatic in recent years, their appeal remains limited mainly to small numbers of people with a tragically deep wound in their lives.

The *Waco* compound in *Armed: Destruction*



boosts the self-interest of vulnerable people. But once inside, acolytes often face group pressure and even violence to keep reluctant members in line. "When you look back at Jonestown," says Leszka, "many of the people who did not go along with the mass suicide were murdered."

Jones, Korek, Heaven's Gate founder Marshall Applewhite and the leaders of the Solar Temple all attracted and held new followers with a dangerous brew of biblical



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While the Bre-X compound in Bombo (left) explodes rumors and a mysterious death

guyan currency Bre-X CEO David Walsh expressed sadness upon hearing the news. In a news release, he said he did not know the geologist that well.

If de Guzman had worked for another company, in another place, the bizarre events of March 16 might not have drawn much notice. But Bre-X is long ago developed a pathology unlike any other. De Guzman's death had Bre-X players and observers, from mutual fund managers to small-time investors agitated. That he was not to have committed suicide spoke to them more. De Guzman had only recently returned to Indonesia from Toronto, where he had a relatively tame at the Prospectors and Developers Convention, which included a blurb for Bre-X. He had been interviewed "explorations of the year." He was wealthy; he was on top of the world—or so it seemed. He also, for what it was worth, appeared robust, as he had when interviewed by *Maclean's* in Jakarta the previous month.

For Bre-X players, who had fanned the Basing price was nearly

seven over by Toronto-based Barrick Gold Corp., who related to the often-outrageous behavior of the property's host country, who feared a further domination of Bre-X's hold on Basing, the death of de Guzman was the usual breaching news item. "When I first heard de Guzman had fallen out of a helicopter, I thought, my God, what is that tragedy?" says John Bracey, who manages a \$400-million precious metals fund for the Royal Bank of Canada. "The next morning, when I heard he had jumped out of the helicopter, I thought, oh, oh. That sort of sent a chill up my spine." Henry Widjaja, the president of PT Inpres Makmur in Jakarta and a member of the Indonesian Mining Association, was in Vancouver when he heard the news. Widjaja knew de Guzman. "I told my brother that it doesn't sound right," he says. In February, when Widjaja met with Maclean's in Jakarta, he had made some interesting observations. A holding at Basing had burned down a couple of weeks previously, "taking drill results with it." Also, the country's mines department did not have inspectors working in the field, meaning the whole show was being run by Bre-X. At the time, he didn't find it suspicious.

The death of de Guzman got everyone rethinking. "I said, this is enough for me," recalls one Montreal institutional trader who sold his shares immediately. Speaking to *Maclean's* last week, he said he had never been a true believer, wondering for a long time whether Bre-X might be a hoax. He had visited Basing last year, and brought back a piece of drill core. He had it assayed. There was nothing there. He knew of other people who had brought back pieces of core. These were also tested and came up barren. But the pieces were small, and a bit of core is not representative of anything. Carefully, at the same time, Bre-X appears to have suspended the release of individual hole results, disallowing national reserve estimates for the property as a whole. The small brand of stupidity really had nothing to do with their results against. Later, when Bre-X did release detailed results, that particular core was rated 1.78 grams of gold per tonne of ore. Many have been built on less. "I was getting less than 0.03," the trader says. That does not prove anything, either Metallurgy is notoriously inconsistent. But then there was the fire. And now, he says, "we've got a dead man here." Suddenly, investors and analysts were talking about the "preponderance of evidence." Basing started sounding like O.J. Simpson in Indonesia.

Three days after de Guzman's death, a Jakarta newspaper published an explosive rumor. The story reads, the paper asserted, were seriously flawed at Basing, as flawed that Basing might not even be worth mining. From his home in the Bahamas, Walsh issued a rebuttal. "The company's record of returns has absolute confidence in the integrity and accuracy of assay results and resource calculations reported by the company for the Basing gold deposit," he said. He complained of the "conspicuous preponderance of falsehoods and misstatements based on unsubstantiated allegations by unnamed sources." He said Bre-X might sue.

Could it really be that a property so recently seen as so rich could be nothing more than jungle mud? Many would be inclined Bre-X. Early on March 24, Gordon Capital in Toronto issued its morning

THE BRE-X BUST

Is the 'world's greatest gold find' a fraud?

BY JENNIFER WELLS

On the morning of Tuesday March 16, Mike de Guzman and Rudy Vega climbed aboard a French-built Alouette helicopter at Baliguan, a lush resort town on the east coast of Samarai. For de Guzman, chief geologist with Bre-X Minerals Ltd., Baliguan was not at a place for himself. It was rather home to Indo-Away Laboratories, a company that was doing mineral testing, or assaying, of ore samples for Calgary-based Bre-X. Vega, a Bre-X metallurgist, recalled later that de Guzman was in high spirits that day.

From Baliguan, the helicopter took Vega to Samarai, where Bre-X has an office. De Guzman himself was headed 100 km to the northwest, to Basing, to the fabled gold discovery that he and fellow geologist John F. McMillan claimed to have found. Working for de Guzman at Basing was a technical team from Freeport/McMullan Copper & Gold Inc., the U.S. mining firm headquartered by the Indonesian

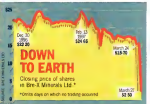
regime to operate the future mine. For two weeks, Freeport had been drilling holes, 250 m deep, alongside the holes sunk by Bre-X—the ones that, de Guzman said, proved that Basing was the richest of all gold deposits. Freeport wanted to double-check.

A Samarai airport—a registered airport, not just a jungle-bay strip—the practice is to ensure that helicopter passengers are strapped in before takeoff and the doors securely shut. The Alouette took off for Basing. That was the last anyone other than the occupants of the helicopter saw of de Guzman alive. Several minutes later, he plunged—the first reports said he fell—200 m into the dense Borneo jungle. But people do not just fall from helicopters and de Guzman was no exception. The news was later revised. De Guzman had jumped, committing suicide because, said a Bre-X spokesman, he was suffering from hepatitis B. There was, said Bre-X, a suicide note left behind in his bag that spoke to the illness, along with a watch, a much-prized gift from his Filipino wife, Teresa Cruz, and some cash, including an unspecified amount of Pina

CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE

The Bre-X panic hit precious metal mutual funds hard

	Glaring prices per share		Chg
	March 25	March 27	
B3 Select Ltd. Precious Metals	\$23.67	\$24.21	+2.3%
First Canadian Precious Metals	\$23.51	\$20.82	-12.3%
CIBC Precious Metals	\$6.30	\$7.64	+20.7%
Scotiabank Precious Metals	\$23.86	\$23.95	+0.4%
Mutual Fund	\$25.86	\$24.78	-4.2%
207 Canadian Equity Fund	\$24.62	\$25.04	+1.7%



comment to Gordon leaders and clients: "Quality of financing asset not in question," said the investment house. "Buy [they overvalued] asset. We maintain our belief that the financing gold deposit will become a world-class gold mine."

Others took a different tack. Daniel McConery, a New York City gold analyst who had valued the site in the summer of 1996 and who had written one of the most comprehensive reports on the project, downgraded his stock recommendation to a neutral from outer limits. It wasn't that he believed the rumors, but rather that he no longer knew what to believe. McConery had met with Feitelholz and de Guzman at the prospectors' convention. It was Feitelholz who, weeks earlier, had shocked McConery and other analysts by tripping the "sell-side" research estimate on Bessing to 200 million ounces. "He said if Michael de Guzman is that level of confidence he had that the Bessing would end up with 200 million ounces," McConery wrote in a report. "We paused to think, then answered '80 per cent.' de Guzman was upset. He told us with a smile, that the Bre-X team had beaten some employees of Freeport at a friendly basketball game on-site."

McConery was stunned by the reported soccer game. Bre-X shareholder Gregory Chantry did not buy the stock's explanation at all. "There is no hole in the ground," said Chantry, an investor, CEO, and investor who had already made \$40 million from Bre-X stock. "I want to see the autopsy reports. Show me an open ended. Show me the fingerprint evidence."

Before trading began on March 26 on the Toronto Stock Exchange, Bre-X stock was halted at \$15.50. Chantry got word of a rumor coming out of the bullion community: "There's a big fire on site coming," he told Melanson that morning. "You'll know it by the smell. It's like sulfur and it's like that. Freeport is going to release a press release after fire. You see the 300 meter." The press release that issued its news release later in the day, it was a different bombshell altogether. During the previous three weeks, the company said, it had drilled seven core holes on the Bessing site to confirm the results of holes previously drilled by Bre-X. "To date, analyses of these cores which remain incomplete, indicate insignificant amounts of gold," Bre-X issued its own news release, disclosing that it had been advised by Michael de Guzman that the holes were "not real." The company said, "There appears to be a strong possibility that the potential gold resources on the Bessing project in East Kalimantan, Indonesia, have been overstated because of inflated samples and analyzing these samples."

For those who believe in Bessing, the Freeport release was not proof that the discovery was a dud. It was incomplete. It did not specify where the holes were drilled, nor did it specify how many. As Chantry put it, the company could have been drilling "in the back of the store." Why would Freeport do that? One popular theory was that the New Orleans company wanted to portray the gold field as one of fire that, to sell the stock, collapse, to lure control of Bre-X on the cheap, to see the X expelled from Bessing.

Harvey M. Wapner, a Vancouver investment consultant and consultant to the mining industry in Jakarta, has criticized Bre-X for being a stock play. "First, Bre-X blew up the capital gains," Wapner said last week. "Then, they sell the capital gains. Now, the new guy plays another game to dilute Bre-X." Others held the view that Freeport's results, however disappointing, were based on too few holes to be conclusive. "It's almost inconceivable that there's not a bit of gold there," said John Wilson, CEO of Pacer Drilling Inc., an oil and gas drilling contractor that has worked with Bre-X. "The fact there were dry holes, and Wilson, he would keep drilling."

But the holes weren't merely bad. They were disastrous. Bre-X itself released the results on Freeport's sampling. The comparisons between the Bre-X and Freeport holes, drilled 1.5 m apart, could not have been more contrary. In one sample, where Bre-X had reported a rich 4.28 grams of gold per ounce, Freeport found 0.06, less



Feitelholz: a near-mythical negotiation, a water walker who has had more time than most of us have had yet

amount to nothing. While the Bre-X results ranged from 1.3 to 5.68, the Freeport results were consistently microscopic. There was, in practical terms, no gold there. "It obviously makes the thing look less favorable," says Wilson. "However, I believe the market is overreacting at this time."

The market reacted instantaneously. When trading resumed on Bre-X stock, it fell \$13 to \$3.90. Eight million shares changed hands at nearly twice 3,000 prices. The TSX's own prices crashed more than all the activity. Three billion dollars in speculation was wiped out. Bre-X, at its peak, had been valued at \$50 billion. Now it was \$600 million. Traders had not seen such volatility since Monday Friday, the day on April, 1982, when shares of cigarette giant Philip Morris crashed on the New York Stock Exchange, leaving investors \$12 billion poorer. The Bre-X collapse, in relative terms, was bloodier, wiping out 80 per cent of the value of the stock. "It appears to be a bomb," said Bob Eversham, vice chairman of AGF Management Ltd., a Toronto-based mutual fund company. "You've got to assume there's something quite wrong. I think you have to look to Bre-X. They're responsible for the integrity of the analysis on their property." AGF funds had scaled back their position in Bre-X well before the meltdown, as did, says Eversham, was not severe. "There's no question if this is indeed fraudulent, this is the most

suggest fraudulent thing I've seen." If there were any gold at Bessing, says Ross Besty, chairman of Pan American Silver Corp. in Vancouver, Freeport would have found it, even in just seven holes. "I'm consuming Bre-X absolutely," he says. "I hope I'm wrong." If he's not, he says, Bre-X will go down as "a shocking and disgraceful episode in Canadian mining history." Even New York was rivaled by the debate. CNBC, an all-news cable channel, could not stop talking about Bre-X, joking at one point that it might have been the interest-rate-biting Alan Greenspan, chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, who pushed the Canadian from the chopper.

Bre-X took other junior gold companies with it, though their loss was less dramatic. "The fallout is not yet over." Canadian law-

suits to the world and there have been very serious," says Besty. "For this, the biggest and nastiest plot to collapse under a bad world is devastating." Small exploration companies now face the challenge of trying to raise money from investors who feel badly harmed. And if the gold truly is not there, the Bre-X team will cast a pall over future Indonesian mining prospects. "This kind of story has huge ramifications for the business," says Ron Stewart, country manager for FT Placer Essen Indonesia, the Indonesian arm of Placer Dome. "It throws a real negative light on the business."

In February, Indonesia's director general of mines, Rudianto Mangunharjo, told Indonesia's that Bre-X would soon be awarded the official contract of work (COW), giving it and its partners title to the portion of Bessing that Bre-X had said contained almost all of the reported gold reserves. Last week, Rudianto said the ministry was freezing all COW applications until the Bessing mine is cleared up. And the mine is about as rare as gold. "Freeport and Bre-X are fighting each other about the value of money," says mining consultant Horne. "But they don't realize their fight will have an impact on economic policy in Indonesia. People will judge that the government has no control and that the government has been fooled by a junior company like Bre-X. Bessing is the salvo in the beginning of the earthquake."

And Bre-X CEO Wapner is standing on the fault line. Last Thursday, he spoke briefly to reporters outside Calgary, Alberta. He stood by his team's technical work, he

said. And he was holding onto his shares. "I previously believed there has been a hidden agenda coming up for about 18 months now," he said. He did not elaborate, but the time frame, casting back to June, coincides with the point at which the Indonesian government began maneuvering to dictate the ultimate ownership of Bessing.

Wapner's comment suggested that Freeport's results are purposely misleading. When the rumors first flew about the validity of Bre-X's sampling, there was



much talk of the cyanide leaching method of assaying, which Indo Assay had been conducting on Bre-X's behalf. Cyanide leaching is not a standard method of testing in the industry. Free assay, which involves melting the ore, is considered far more accurate. But Bre-X and long ago that free assay was not as effective in its use, an explanation that was accepted by many analysts. Was there ever a suggestion that Bre-X bring in outside consultants to verify the results? "We're talking about Gold here," says one investment executive at Feitelholz, who

ruled the site. "You're talking Gold to bring in independent to double-check results. Feitelholz would never let that happen. A water walker who 'has had rumors more times than most of us have had' says. Pan American's Besty was surprised to hear of the absence of free assays. He has gone short—that is, bet against companies—that have made substantial gains in the past. "It's a standard shroud for all of the company," says it can't get the gold out by the assay."

At least two groups of analysts report the site. None wrote negative reports after the fact. That has led to criticism of that community, on whose information investors have come to rely. Some of the analysts did not care for the fact that Bre-X controlled its own press kit, where the samples were tagged before being shipped to Indo Assay. They would have liked to have seen an outside contractor overseeing the site.

The presence of Robert Eversham, a division of the SNC Lavalin group, provided a level of comfort. Eversham was the largest, most recent mobile company associated with Bre-X. The only other outsiders on site were the small local contractors that drilled the nearly 300 holes at Bessing. Rudianto now says that the assay results did not come from the Indo assays. From there, the engineering firm prepared a pre-feasibility report. It was Rudianto that came up with the 70-million-ton figure based on data from the assay lab.

John Robertson is the manager of engineering for Kibara in Jakarta, and in February, he met with the press at a press conference with the officers at the Kibara site.

He expressed a tremendous sense of relief that the ownership issue appeared to have been resolved, with Freeport getting 75 per cent, Bre-X 45 per cent and the Indonesian 40 per cent.

Freeport conducted both cyanide and free assay trials in Bessing. Amazingly, the company also said there were "visual differences" between the gold taken from the Bre-X core samples and the gold taken from those of Freeport. In the naming game, visual differences are a red flag, a signpost that something may have been wrong.

Sifting is an old trick. Prospectors take a couple of full holes, pulverize the rock, then sprinkle in a little gold to make the samples look pretty. The purpose is to run the stock up, then run with the profits before the scam is revealed.

The closest any outsider got to sampling Bessing prior to Freeport was Barrick Gold Corp. Barrick signed a confidentiality agreement last Nov. 24 at a time when it was hoping to take control of Bessing. Early the next month, Barrick named a crew of se-



near technical people, including Alan Hill, the company's executive vice-president of development, onto the site. The company created as many as 100 samples of crushed ore, provided by Bre-X, and delivered them to Labfield Research Ltd. outside Toronto. There was no whole core to ship, because rather than splitting the core and writing half, it is the common practice, Bre-X crashed the story core on-site. There was no material to compare the Bre-X samples with. Bernick's next step would have been to drill its own holes. But before it got to that stage, the partnership was scuppered. On the samples it did have, it was widely understood that there were inconsistencies against the Bre-X numbers. Cherry believes that releasing turned up more positive results for Bernick, and will not entertain the mining dream.

The speculation about what assays harbored back to 1980 and the case of New Cincch Uranium Ltd., a Canadian junior whose stock ran from \$2 to \$20 over four months. New Cincch said it had a rich gold deposit in New

WHERE'S THE GOLD?

On a bid to verify claims of a massive gold find, U.S. mining firm Freeport-McMoan drilled four shafts parallel to, and within 1 km of, existing holes drilled by Bre-X to verify in the southwest zone of the Bessent property. The findings were startlingly different.

Drill hole	Depth	Bre-X results (grams of gold per tonne)	Freeport results (grams of gold per tonne)
No. 02	9-11 m	0.30	0.85
	29-191 m	4.30	0.85
	271-283 m	3.75	0.85
No. 03	3-125 m	3.30	0.82
No. 202	29-110 m	3.22	0.89
No. 207	221-250 m	5.68	0.81

Menah, against the interest of Wilfroy Mines Ltd., which paid \$200 million for 15 per cent of New Cincch. Trouble was, when Wilfroy did its own drilling, the company could not find the gold. In this case, the mining took place at the same stage. "It has been a black market, rather coaster ride reminiscent of the wildest tales of rags to riches to rags in the early era of Canadian 'brasserie' euphoria," *Maclean's* reported at the time. "Prospectors in mining pitches, and even when mineral claims in massive patterns, created promotion within financial circles, lusting buying an illusory evidence—and the

whole picture of spontaneous mineralization largely eliminated from the stock market in recent decades with increasing regulation designed to protect investors and practitioners from their own stupidity and greed." The stock crashed and burned. GH, and there was a number, one, of its employees of 31 years. Cherry told *Maclean's*, which had done the assay work. *Maclean's* revised.

As they did for Bre-X, early this week, Ralph Salomons, a lawyer with Lang Michener in Vancouver who represents a Cherry-led group of diversified shareholders, will, along with the law firm of



Drilling rig at Bessent, de Salomons with one sample (Bre-X) some analysts speculate that the site may have been 'baited' with gold



90-per-cent interest in half. The suit will accuse Bre-X of overvaluing its ownership and, says Salomons, go after the "equation of gold" issue. Salomons says the suit will focus in part on the trouble trading that saw Walsh, Felderfeld and two others pocket \$27 million last summer and fall. He won't specify how much the plaintiffs are seeking, but he says the suit will be big. Big enough to shake David Walsh, who is already leaving the earth quake.

With JOHN SCHWELD in Toronto

Raiser & Hottel in Houston. It's a class action suit against Bre-X somewhere in the United States. Salomons will not say where, exactly. There is no word money in the local scene, given that when Cherry retained Salomons in December, the idea was to raise a case against Bernick for套取 (siphoning) at the Bre-X affairs. Now, says Cherry, "the Bre-X guys don't talk to me any more. They think that I and my shareholder group are a bunch of disloyal, unscrupulous pigs." Cherry made it clear in February, at the time of the Bre-X partnership with Freeport, that he hated the deal, which cut Bre-X's stake

in a Coderre site of small free investors and overnight fortunes. When the stock asploded to \$2.50 from \$15.50 last month, reports that Bre-X's stock-traded index fund was "insignificant," the name sent tremors through the investment community. And somewhere the earthquake strike harder than in St. Paul, a quarter-century-old community 200 km northwest of Edmonton. With as many as 200 people at one time holding stock in the wounded company, the pro-



SORROW IN ST. PAUL

A town wonders what went wrong

John Kieferman's job a year ago was to construct the only skyscraper in the small town of St. Paul, Alta., sounds, in hindsight, eerily prophetic. With gold fever sweeping through the community—many of whose 5,200 residents struck a rich buying spree in high-flying Bre-X Minerals Ltd.—Kieferman had plenty to ponder that he had a safer investment. "We got the contract to build a 20-story building for everyone to jump all of when Bre-X crashed," the owner of a local electrical contracting firm told a visiting Calgary newspaper reporter last week, as the shares went into a freefall. Kieferman's words were greeted that he had a safer investment.

Suddenly, the clock had struck midnight in a Coderre site of small free investors and overnight fortunes. When the stock asploded to \$2.50 from \$15.50 last month, reports that Bre-X's stock-traded index fund was "insignificant," the name sent tremors through the investment community. And somewhere the earthquake strike harder than in St. Paul, a quarter-century-old community 200 km northwest of Edmonton. With as many as 200 people at one time holding stock in the wounded company, the pro-

founder French-Canadian community is thought to be home to the largest concentration of Bre-X shareholders in the world.

Much of the Bre-X fever that swept St. Paul can be traced to John Kieferman, a former local credit union loan officer, who three years ago began alerting clients to reports of a massive gold deposit in the Indonesian jungle. Kieferman, who moved to New Zealand last year with the fortune he made riding the breath-taking climb of Bre-X stock, was something of a self-taught gold-mining analyst. Given his reputation as a conservative-minded money manager, Kieferman's advice to buy Bre-X was all the evidence that many in St. Paul needed. Staircase quickly spread of adulation began inside by locals in what was nothing less than a modern-day gold rush.

Little wonder, then, that for the past two years the main topic of conversation among the morning coffee drinkers at the Carlu Restaurant on Main Avenue was the stunning success of Bre-X shares. Some of them had cluttered about the Bre-X knowledge on when it was still a penny stock destined to reach \$200 before a 10-for-1 stock split in May 1996. Not surprisingly, the stock was sorely last week and now he's gutted at the Bre-X shares were tightly "No one wants to

Bre-X shareholders pour in St. Paul in August 1996: mingled in Coderre's city

talk about Bre-X," a waitress said curtly. Who could blame them? If the Bre-X saga now plays out the way many analysts predict, investors in St. Paul who thought they were holding a pot of gold will wind up with little more than a lump of mud.

"The people I feel sorry for are the ones who bought Bre-X on margin, borrowed heavily to buy it, or invested their RRSPs in the stock," says Bob Porzani, who operates the local drugstore. "They're the ones who are really going to be hurt." Porzani cautions himself to be among the lucky ones. Even though he still holds Bre-X stock when the crash hit last week, Porzani says he never staked more than he could afford to lose in the high-risk mining venture. He declines to say what he paid for his stock, how many shares he sold at a profit and how many he still owns. "I got in at different times and I've always gone with the idea that if I lose it, I lose it."

Exactly how much Bre-X stock still in the hands of St. Paul investors remains uncertain. The Calgary investment broker says he encouraged his clients, including some in St. Paul, to unload Bre-X last fall when controversy arose over the ownership of the company's Bessent deposit. St. Paul Mayor John F. Stewart, who resigned the story to buy Bre-X, believes that most local investors will avoid financial trouble because most had the sense to sell at least some of their shares weeks, if not months, ago. "No doubt some will feel devastated because of the paper value they've lost," says Trevisano. "But I don't think anyone borrowed a lot of money to buy it. It's not a big loss for the community." Others were closer to the words of Bre-X CEO David Walsh, who blamed the panic on an incoherent preliminary drilling results and rumor-mongering by unidentified parties out to sabotage the company. "I find it very remarkable the number of analysts and professionals who would have to be inaccurate over the last three years in the business. It's Arizona pretty hard to believe," says Guy Drouin, publisher of the weekly *St. Paul Journal* and a stockbroker with RBC Dominion Securities who bought Bre-X shares well before Kieferman began leading the company. Still, Drouin admits to feeling queasy last week when reports surfaced that the gold deposit might actually be a wild exaggeration. It is not an outright admission.

Kieferman, who bought into Bre-X before the share split when the price was a hot \$200—equivalent to \$12.50 now, or roughly the time last week's closing price—also has "nothing to say" that he does have one piece of advice. "Test give it some time and it will be all right. The stock market and the shareholders are as dumb buying that Kieferman's latest prognostication comes true."

By MICHAEL E. BROWN in Calgary



1 Everything you wipe
with can spread germs

2 Except this

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3M Innovation

Ross Laver



Personal Business

Why leadership matters

Kathleen Flynn was skeptical when her boss at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce asked her to attend a leadership training program for a small group of Ottawa-area branch managers. A graduate of several previous executive management courses, Flynn knew from experience that the beneficial impact of such initiatives—if any—often fades after a few days or weeks.

This time, however, the results were impressive. Surveys carried out months after the training began showed that the 25 full- and part-time employees in Flynn's downtown Ottawa branch were, on average, more

positive about their jobs and more committed to the success of the bank than they had been before the program. The branch's financial performance also improved significantly, both in terms of the number of personal loan approvals and the volume of credit card applications. "I was a bit leery at first, but the results speak for themselves," Flynn says.

The whole experience was highly motivating, not only for myself but for everyone who works here. Why did Flynn's leadership training prove effective when so many similar courses seem to fail? Part of the answer lies in the way the program's designers defined successful leadership. In contrast to the conventional notion of a leader as someone with a commanding personality who asserts clear directions, "we see leadership as the ability to intellectually stimulate subordinates, to help them approach problems in new ways and to think about what's going to benefit the organization in the long term," says Judith Barling, a psychologist and business professor at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., who oversaw the project.

The training program was actually part of a field experiment by Barling and two of his former students—Tara Whetzel, who at the time was the CIBC's regional manager for Ottawa, and Kevin Solloway, now a psychology professor at the University of Guelph, in Ontario. Launched in the summer of 1996, it was one of the first academic studies to as-

sess the impact of leadership training on the perceptions, attitudes and financial performance of employees in a real-world business setting. The results were published in the December, 1996, edition of the *Journal of Applied Psychology*.

In the study, 20 branch managers were randomly divided into two groups. One group received an special two-session, while the others attended a daylong leadership training session. Managers who took the course then met the researchers once a month to discuss individual problems and objectives. The study's authors also surveyed employees regularly about their supervisors' leadership styles, and reported the findings to the branch managers.

Whetzel, who was recently promoted to director of sales and marketing for branch banking at the CIBC, says that one of the keys to the training program was its emphasis on challenging employees to come up with new solutions to old problems. "It can be as simple as asking subordi-



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Business NOTES

TOYOTA BREAKTHROUGH

Toyota Motor Co. said it will start selling cars this year in Japan that use a gasoline engine in conjunction with an electric motor to achieve nearly twice the fuel efficiency of conventional cars and with far fewer exhaust emissions. The Toyota Hybrid System would mark the first use of electric motors in mass-market automobiles.

BANKS RAIL OUT

T. Eaton Co. Ltd.'s main lenders, the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Toronto-Dominion Bank, sold \$180 million of Eaton's debt to Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc. of New York City. So-called vulture funds, which take over debts in hope of making a profit through a firm's restructuring, now hold two-thirds of Eaton's \$270-million debt.

A TREAT FOR TORONTO

Peter Munk's TransAlta Corp. and a powerful group of Asian investors, including Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-Shing, plan to spend \$2 billion to develop a power, 18-hectare site near Toronto's SkyDome. Canada Lands Co. Ltd., the Crown corporation that owns the former railway property, did not reveal the purchase price.

NOMURA UNDER SIEGE

Scams of investigators tied 11 offices of Nomura Securities Co. Ltd., Japan's leading brokerage house. The officials are probing allegations that a Nomura director paid a company friend to give him \$425,000 to prevent the release of embarrassing information.

BAD NEWS FOR BLACK

Press baron Conrad Black recorded defeat in his bid for control of the Financial Post after Sun Media Corp. of Toronto refused to sell its 49.5 percent stake in the paper. Black said he will consider starting his own national newspaper next year.

ELLISON EYES APPLE

Larry Ellison, chairman of software giant Oracle Corp., has formed an independent investor group to consider taking over troubled Apple Computer Inc. The Entrepreneur billionaire has said for two years he would like to buy Apple with his own money, partly to prevent Microsoft Corp. from cornering the computer industry.

Rates rise, stocks sink

After months of fretting about spiraling stock prices and the evils of uncontrollable greed, U.S. Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan raised interest rates for the first time in more than two years. The central bank increased its benchmark federal funds rate by a quarter of a percentage point to 5.5 per cent, calling it a "prudent step" to move off inflation.

Investors were initially slow to react. At week's end, however, New York's benchmark Dow Jones industrial average tumbled 140 points and fears that escalating borrowing costs would kill North America's six-year bull market. A rash of economic statistics showing a unexpected jump in housing sales and a softening labor market raised concerns that another rate hike is in the offing, probably when the Fed meets again on May 30. The Toronto Stock Exchange 300 index dove 194 points, pushed down in part by



New York Stock Exchange traders: Is the bull dead?

controversy over Bre-X Mineral Ltd.

Analysts say the Bank of Canada will follow the trend to higher rates, but may be forced to follow the U.S. example if foreign investors pull money out of the country as the Canadian dollar—which closed last week at 72.5 cents U.S., dips below 72 cents. The bank's key lending rate now stands at 3.25 per cent, the lowest level since the 1980s.

Forestry merger off

Quebec's biggest pension fund filed its 8th-quarter results to help quash a proposed \$2.6-billion merger between two Montreal-based forest-products giants, Avacore Inc. and Regap Enterprises Inc. Avacore shareholders declined the takeover plan after the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, which manages \$56 billion in provincial retirement sav-

ings, proposed a three-way merger involving Doucette Inc. of Montreal. The Caisse owns 22 per cent of Doucette's stock and 39 per cent of Avacore. With takeovers sweeping the forest-products industry, there is growing pressure on all three companies to consolidate. The Caisse warned Avacore that its takeover of financially troubled Regap would burden the company with debt, but Avacore insisted on going ahead with the sale.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Canada's economy grew up 0.6 per cent in January, the largest monthly increase since the summer of 1994. Manufacturing activity was among the big gainers, showing a 1.9 per-cent advance due largely to an increase in production of cars and automotive parts. Retail sales rose 1.5 per cent. Despite the healthy pace of growth, manufactur-

ers' raw material prices declined 3.2 per cent from January to February. The drop was almost entirely due to lower crude oil prices.

In another positive sign, Canada's average weekly earnings were 4.1 per

cent higher in January than a year earlier. The increase was the highest in two years.

"The domestic economy is clearly on the upswing, as seen by January's stronger-than-expected GDP data. And the labor market appears to be much stronger than previously thought."

—Renaud Burns

RIISING PAY

Average weekly earnings

Jan/96: \$573.18

Jan/97: \$596.78

Source: Statistics Canada

"We've earned the right to decouple our interest rates from the United States."

—Royal Bank

"As the heating oil season is coming to end, the gasoline season will soon kick in, potentially adding upward pressure to crude oil prices."

—Statistics Canada

Sizing up the heavyweights

Although it may not appear that many financial books, one of the investment industry's favorite concepts is the so-called big bear theory. The idea goes like this: large mutual funds are like battleships—once they reach a certain size, they are harder to maneuver. And if they're too big, it can take a long time to turn them around.

Mutual fund performance figures for 1996 seem to support the theory. *Asset* last year's biggest market, Canada's 10 largest equity mutual funds all had net below-average performances. The *Altares Equity Fund*, under the captainship of manager Frank Mersich, was the worst, lagging 27 per cent, compared with 38 per cent for the Toronto Stock Exchange 300 index. ("I never thought I'd have to apologize for a 17-per-cent return," Mersich told *Altares*'s readers.)

That does not mean large equity funds are about to sink. Over the long term, they should provide better returns than your unaided investment acumen, while being a more planned and diversified way to high-performing but more risky specialty funds. But does the fact that the *Altares Equity Fund* has grown from \$1.5 million in assets to \$2.6 billion in just nine years have anything to do with its mediocre performance? And will that become an increasing problem as investors pile into large, heavily advertised funds?

In fact, there is no proof that size affects fund performance, says Eric Kriner, adjunct associate professor of finance at the University of Toronto. He and others observe that in most cases large funds perform poorly for the same reasons: managers are paid more for the results they bring in, but they are not paid as much for the losses they incur in a particular investment strategy.

Large funds also have disadvantages. For one thing, they need to buy large blocks of stock in order to diversify and meet the investment objectives. "Sometimes there's just not that amount of securities available," says John Adams, chief mutual fund research for Newell Burnham, Inc. in Toronto. In particular, large funds can encounter problems buying into the sorts of small companies that



Ask: "when you're a big customer, you're getting all the information!"

often provide the most dramatic growth. But those disadvantages can be offset by a large fund's advantages. By virtue of their size, the battlegroups command a lot of attention from companies eager to sell their stock. "When you're a big customer, you're getting all the information, and you're getting it fast," says Bob Bell of Bell, Jacobs & Co., a Toronto-based firm that analyzes fund performance. In addition, big funds often get

first pick on new issues of stock. Nevertheless, Part says there is a "critical mass" beyond which it becomes harder for a fund to handle large trades quickly. Not only can it be difficult to buy or sell large blocks of stock, but doing so can actually drive the price up or down.

Kriner voices another concern: that large funds will become "underusers" of index funds. Index funds buy shares in the same proportion that they exist in a particular index, such as the TSX 35 or TSX 300. When the market rises, they go up, when it falls, they fall with it. Kriner believes some of the large equity funds are so diversified "they've stopped being great stock pickers and become indexers."

Not that there is anything wrong with index funds, which do not provide good long-term results. The real issue is the cost. Management fees for index funds typically range from 0.7 per cent to 1.1 per cent a year, compared with large equity funds at 1.75 per cent to 2.25 per cent a year. That may not sound like a big difference, but it adds up. Moreover, managers are not getting the active management style they were promised. To continue the metaphor, a large equity fund that tracks the stock market is like a luxury cruise ship. Passengers may like the relatively smooth ride and ultimately may reach their destination—but they are paying a premium.

How can investors tell if a large equity mutual fund has lost its way? Kriner says it is important to check a fund's size of goals against the manager's actual investment decisions. "Have they got a clear style and are they willing to stick with it?" Invariably, *Altares*'s top performers may be a good sign, because it appears to have resulted primarily from a successful decision last summer to avoid bank stocks, which subsequently rose sharply.

To Kriner, that suggests the fund is continuing to follow the aggressive management style that made it successful. "A large fund with a clear investment style can still outperform the market of smaller funds," he claims. And a fund losing its way in one year isn't a good enough reason to abandon ship.

DAVID FORREST



Peter C. Newman Salvos aimed at halting the military rot

Doug Young's suggestions for bringing an element of sanity back to the Canadian military hold out reasonable hope of restoring credibility to the badly abused defence establishment. What the minister had to do, as quickly as possible, was deliver the defence message bolstered by a series of de-mystifying speeches, including the shameful killings in Somalia and Gen. Jean Boivin's pathetic denial of ultimate responsibility while he was chief of defence staff.

Thus, he has achieved. Merely by denouncing his death that the department is worth saving—at the time of a guaranteed \$10 billion year—he stopped the rot. The fiscal constraints, which could not have been made without consulting Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Finance Minister Paul Martin, ensure the reforms and generals that defence requires a top Canadian priority. And that they are still wanted instead of being considered relics of the Cold War.

The idea now will be for the defence department to regain self-confidence and public support by trying to persuade itself and the Canadian public that the Boivin scandal and the *Altares* report's criticism of the military were isolated incidents. That shouldn't be too difficult, since we have been blessed by many first-class chiefs of defence staff in the past. Before Somalia, our record in international peacekeeping was solid across the world.

While part of Young's recommendations are surely well-meaning, his suggestion that other Somalia-like inquiries be avoided publicly is not. By limiting the scope of public probes to internal or parliamentary panels, the defence minister would ensure that his words actually would be investigated outside the stomp of public opinion. That would make any case for a new mission.

There is no question that the current Somalia commissioners took their jobs seriously, perhaps too seriously, attempting to re-contract every detail of the doomed peacekeeping mission. By taking too much time to explore an *Altares*-even with two previous extensions of their original deadline—they didn't have time to reach the heart of the matter. And with Young's short outburst of their activities, they may never—depending on whether last week's Federal Court ruling overruling Young's decision stands—get the chance to tell the most important part of their mandate, or even to ask most of the essential questions.

As things stand, it seems very doubtful now whether we will ever know the answers to such essential questions as: why, exactly, did members of the *Altares* Regiment commit a crime that has no equal in Canadian military history? What prompted these Canadian soldiers to torture to death Shidane Arone, a 16-year-old Somali? And why, having snuffed out his life—was he was

whispering, "Canada..."—did Arone's murderers prep up his lifeless head and take pictures of the gory spectacle, as if he were a killing trophy?

Despite the minutes spent on the inquiry, three essential questions remain a mystery. The other crucial problem in the tragic tale is the possible complicity of the *Altares* officials then in charge at the defence department—mainly deputy minister Robert Fowler and chief of defence staff, vice-admiral John Anderson. It may be that either they or their underlings kept the facts away from both the politicians responsible for the military and the Canadian public at large. That would be inexcusable.

Perhaps the inquiry's greatest accomplishment may turn out to be not any great revelations it collected from witnesses, but the

lessons themselves. Day after day for 16 months, former and current soldiers, mostly dressed out in their dress uniforms, had to account for their decisions and delays, their actions and reactions. Explaining how they tried to do their best under tough circumstances wasn't good enough for the commentators, and they were right. The commission may not have set any good records, but it did manage to focus in on the many human mistakes during the *Altares*'s several days in Somalia. The hearings revealed a chain of command much more dedicated to posing on the blame than to finding a humanitarian and successful mission.

For a session dramatically demonstrated to the military that they must take responsibility for their own actions. Carry out the nation's military mandate meant they could not get away from themselves and their actions. Young's reforms, which will alter the officer of the chief of defence staff by making

its occupant personally responsible for everything that happens under his or her command, are an army that will stop the chain of command a much more likely means of forcing all to own up to what they do—good or bad—rather than to assume the blame—and credit—for what they do and say.

Young's best recommendations have to do with reforming the military justice system. By granting military police the power of independent investigation and the right of arrest, he has set up, for the first time, an effective disciplinary system within the defence department.

Young is right not to have tried to include in his reforms a long-term blueprint for military rules in a post-Cold War world. That will require much thought and the necessary time for the various options to mature in the policies of public opinion.

Still, that assignment can't be put off forever. We are still operating on a Cold War legacy, and if we are destined to spend \$10 billion a year on defence, the money must be characterised in useful directions. Only then can we once again be proud of our citizen soldiers.

IS BIGGER BETTER?

The 10 largest Canadian equity mutual funds, by assets

	Assets (\$ mil.)	Assets (\$ mil.)
1. Fidelity Select Canadian Growth	23.9	\$2.8
2. Fidelity RSP Equity Fund	23.1	\$3.3
3. Investors Canadian Equity Fund	24.9	\$3
4. Investors Retirement Mutual Fund	23.6	\$2.6
5. Altares Equity Fund	17	\$2.8
6. Ivy Canadian Fund	29.2	\$2.4
7. Fidelity Canadian Fund	26	\$1.5
8. Investors Retirement Growth Portfolio	23.9	\$1.9
9. Fidelity Canadian Equity Fund	22.9	\$1.8
10. AIC Equity Fund	25.8	\$1.8

ventures. Coming, an above-average Australian golf sensation Karrie Webb who, as a rookie in 1998, became the first woman on the LPGA Tour to win more than \$1 million (U.S.) in a season.

Not that life is that up of women's sports is all gold and glamour. Yana Nefedko, who works in sciences and appliances, says scientists don't see the endless free rides, the winning salaries or the first-class flights after five days in seven nights. "Sure, we travel the world and stay in great places," the 28-year-old Californian says, laughing. "But you not travel and take your luggage. It's hard to not get your things, but it's something I love—It's what I always wanted to do. I have to remind myself of that."

Steve Thomas wants to do it, too. After working for Tuna Lapienis, a 14-year-old world from Sugarhill, Tex., on the world figure-skating championship two weeks ago, Thomas says bluntly: "I want to stand on top of the podium as much." For the 12-year-old resident of Minneapolis, Minn., that is no pipe dream—the reality of his life is the double Axel and triple Salchow and toe loop, and she has a natural grace.

So on Good Friday, a holiday for most everyone else, Thomas gets in her daily norm of 3½ hours at the Art Figure Skating Academy. The ice surface is packed with skaters ranging from precocious five-year-olds to internationally ranked juniors, but she finds space to practice. Parents wonder why she is so obsessed. "It's kind of great to go up in the air and then land a triple," Thomas says, adding, "Skating gives me confidence. A lot of girls at school, they don't have anything like that." Interestingly, the skater she most admires is a men-four-time world champion Kurt Browning. "I really look up to him," she says. "Because he has the jumps and he is so great at the artistic side of skating."

As it happens, Thomas could not be giving up at a more propitious moment for female athletes, and not just in skating. Recent months have seen an overwhelming support for women's sports in this, the North American, to be professionalized deaths. "There can never be a better time to exist in our sport," says North Vancouver's Chairman Crooks, 40, a middle-distance runner who has competed in four Olympics. With prize money of up to \$180,000 per event now offered at sanctioned competitions, Crooks says, "there's a real opportunity there to make a living as a track athlete."

There are new opportunities in team sports as well. In the past, a few female soccer stars like Fran Kirby, a Vancouver-Monroe Riverway in the NHL, Jane Meyer in the NBA—without a realistic chance of catching on (Shannon is still a backup goalie for the West Coast Hockey League's Reno Aces). Other players simply went overseas—like Sarah Stubbins of Salinas Area, B.C., the new assistant basketball team coach, is one of many Canadian women who have played in a pro hoops league in Italy. But now, there is the American Basketball League, which just completed its inaugural season, playing in an arena of 12,500 seats in its eighth U.S. season. And the Canadian Women's National Basketball Association, backed by the basketball NBA, will start its first season in June. "We feel good about the prospects for women's sports," says WNBA president Val Ackerman, "and we think we can lead the way."

Other games hope to follow basketball's example. Organizers of the 1999 Women's World Cup of Soccer in the United States say that



■ All action (above) Nefedko (far left) and Adams: high achievers

event and the 2000 Olympics could boost momentum for a women's pro league. Softball supporters, meanwhile, are planning to start a world pro circuit in the U.S. southeast in June. Women's hockey may not be ready for professional prize money—there is simply a shortage of top-caliber players, officials say. Glynis Peters, manager of women's programs for Canadian Hockey, says that while thousands of women compete in college basketball and soccer in North America, only a few hundred play a similarly competitive level of hockey. For all the progress, women's pro sports obviously lag well behind men's in tournament prize money, sponsor support and TV exposure.

For example, the LPGA Tour, one of the fastest-growing women's sports organizations in the world, will stage 43 tournaments offering \$48 million in prize money in 1999, and 31 of those events will be shown on TV in North America. But most will be on cable—only 10 will appear on major networks, compared with 42 events on the men's PGA Tour, while the men's prize money totals \$75 million. As for sponsorship, Nike handed 21-year-old golfer Tiger Woods a new \$10-million contract before he had hit a single shot as a pro. But the same company, whose ads trumpet its support for women's sports, offered none when it offered Laura Davies, the world's No. 1 ranked female golfer, a mere \$5,000 a year to wear its shoes. "People keep talking about how we're coming," says veteran golfer Nancy Lopez. "But there's still a long way to go."

Women athletes also suffer from entrenched prejudice. Two years ago, CBS golf announcer Ben Wright told a reporter that he hated a sport "that a woman's golf" and that sponsors were reluctant to support the LPGA Tour. But after a brief washout of controversy—and after CBS fired Wright—the issue simply died. LPGA commissioner Jen Reno insists the debate was actually good for her sport. "The allegation, quite aside from all the personal stuff, was that lesbianism is significantly and negatively impacting the business of women's golf," he says. "If that were true, a bear



■ Not the top money-maker is what, for women, is the richest sport of them all

game would be stagnant at best, or declining. But the coming 12 months were the greatest in LPGA history from a business standpoint."

In some sports, the TV market is as strong for women's as it is for men's. The CBS and the CBC both report equally high ratings for women's curling as for its male counterpart. The same goes for tennis where, experts say, high-tech equipment has made men's tennis mostly a power game, whereas the women's version features plenty of power but also more cross-piecing rallies and finesse shots. "The more people get a chance to see women's sports," says Canadian, "the more they like them."

Charmie Adams and Yana Nefedko have already scaled the heights of high-school basketball. The 17-year-old Grade 12 student at High Melbourne Secondary School in Richmond, B.C., who both stand five feet, 10 inches tall and the Strikins to

last month's provincial AAA championship game before narrowly losing to Maple Ridge's Theresa Hasey. Just although Adams, a guard, and Nefedko, a forward, have both been recruited by U.S. colleges, they have chosen Canadian schools and hope to play for the Olympic team. "If you go away and play in the States, you can't come back for the provincial program here—the schedules usually conflict," says Nefedko, who plans to attend Simon Fraser University in Burnaby. She does not think that will hinder her development, saying: "Canadian basketball is getting better, so I want to be a part of that."

Their ambitions may go even further—both Nefedko and Adams say they might want to play pro ball overseas. But they are not so fixated on hoops that they forget other priorities. The two say they put just as much emphasis on maintaining good grades and active social lives as at inside their coach. Fresh from her, says is more common among female athletes than among males. "On a girls' team, you won't find a lot of high-grade-point averages," says Nefedko. "When they get to third level, they are usually high achievers."

Most of the women interviewed by Maclean's say that, as girls, they had strong parental support to pursue sports. "You need a little resistance from your parents because to some extent you are going against the cultural norms," says power Maclean. "Sport was OK for boys, but there were some parents who didn't see it as something for girls." As teenagers, they tended to be all-



■ Nefedko (above left) and Maclean Crooks (left) in amateur sports, women athletes are just as marketable as men



around athletics, and amicably cooperative. Sandra Schwaiblmair, whose team will represent Canada at this month's world curling championships in Thessalon, grew up playing volleyball and basketball, too. "Even as a little kid, I just had to be the best at whatever I was doing," says the 40-year-old recreation supervisor. "My parents didn't push me into sports—I just had an outlet for my competitive nature."

The pursuit of sport often cultivated high school social lives. Nancy Lopez, 40, winner of 47 LPGA tournaments in a 30-year career, had to join the boys' golf team at her Russell, N.H., high school because there was no girls' team. "After that, I didn't get asked out as often as crack," says Lopez, who since 1983 has been married to Ray Russell, N.H., high school coach of baseball. Cincinnati Reds. "Maybe the guys were intimidated—I don't know. I had one boyfriend who couldn't understand that I had to go to the range and practice. He wanted me to be doing whatever he was

doing." But others who came from smaller communities say sport was their social life. "Frankly, there wasn't much else to do," says Schmalzer, who grew up in Biggar, a town of 4,500 west of Saskatoon.

For others, the rewards of competing made up for the social costs. "I always knew there was a trade-off," Yanagisako says. "I didn't mind not going to the dances and the parties and the football games. I had this other life, travelling and being able to get away to competitions. I had friends all over the world at that point."

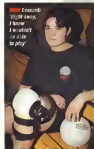
The sacrifices increase as recreation turns to career. Removed from home and family, elite-level women athletes are cut off from the normal social opportunities to meet friends and prospective mates. Reasons tend to be the long-distance variety. Among skaters, for instance, Yanagisako and boyfriend Bret Hindman, a defenseman with the Vancouver Canucks, are rarely in the same time zone. And Wen, the two-time Olympic figure-skating champion from Germany, is doing a run in Berlin, where she owns a home. But she is also on tour, at her apartment in New York City or working in Los Angeles. "I think the most difficult thing about this life for all of us is not being at home," she says. "But we are lucky—we are out there doing some thing great, something we have passion for, and we make a good living."

The separation is equally tough on husbands. Gail and Terry Graham of Oliver, B.C., have forged a successful sports partnership. She won the Alpine Australian Ladies Masters on the LPGA Tour last month, and he is general manager of Clayco Golf Club in the Okanagan Valley. But while the distance cracks them in convenience as their careers, it has forced them to put off having a family—and to put up with loneliness. "There are times when I get sick of going home to a frozen dinner," Terry admits.

Then there are long-distance crises. Last March, a golfer from Prince Rupert, B.C., who now lives in Toronto, was just about to start a pro-am round in 1990 when she was called off the course in Youngstown, Ohio, with the news that her husband, Mike, had suffered a heart attack back home. It turned out to be a relatively mild attack—he has recovered completely—but she heard the word on the long phone. "It was a horrible fight," she recalls. "All you can do is sit there and weep."

For the competitors who have kids, there is no way around the superwoman conundrum that other working women face in balancing marriage, motherhood and career. Male athletes, almost without exception, leave child care to their wives, at home or on the road, but women usually leave their kids with them at everything from track meets to curling bonanzas. Coe-Jones says she takes Jazzy because she does not want to go weeks without seeing him. Her husband, Tampa businessman Jimmy Jones, says his wife often talks about leaving day care to go to his mother's. "But right now," he says, "she feels she needs to be at home."

For most female athletes, the need is financial. Their paycheques may be pocket change to Michael Jordan, but they are still substantial. Coe-Jones has earned more than \$2.6 million on tour since she turned pro in 1983 and she has several off-course endorsements contingent on her on-course performance. She is in her peak earning years, and as yet, there is no senior tour for women. So she plays on, and plays well. After the other elite start their work in January, she has just started, and Jazzy could wait away his mother worked her way into kindergarten. In the final round, Coe-Jones needed a "hole-in-one" for eagle at the 17th hole. I landed 28 and I shot 66." She finished third and won \$49,000—proof that while life may not always be easy for women athletes, it does have its rewards.



ACL: a real pain in the knee

There was nothing unusual about the way Claude Lemard, a two-time all-Canadian volleyball star, leaped to attack the ball. Her team, the number 1 ranked Université Laval's Rouge et Or from Quebec City, was battling the University of British Columbia in the semifinals of the Canadian university championships last year in Toronto. But Lemard, one of the hardest-hitting players in the country, came down awkwardly on her left leg and immediately crumpled in a heap. "It felt like someone had kicked me behind the knee," she recalls. "Right away, I knew I wouldn't be able to play in the national finals."

Lemard, 23, was out for nine months. Like scores of female athletes, she tore her anterior cruciate ligament, or ACL, which keeps the femur, or thigh bone, aligned with the tibia when the knee is bent. The ACL also prevents the tibia, or shin bone, from sliding forward too much. For reasons that doctors do not fully understand, women are much more likely to tear their ACL than men in sports involving jumps, rapid changes in direction or abrupt acceleration and deceleration. High-risk sports include soccer, basketball, volleyball, field hockey and gymnastics. Canadian research is scarce, but studies report that women are anywhere from two to four times more susceptible to ACL tears, depending on the sport. Dr. Doug Richards, team physician for the Canadian women's basketball team, calls it an "apparent epidemic."

For athletes, ACL injuries are season-ending. They require a lengthy rehabilitation and lead to premature arthritis in 70 per cent of cases. Theories abound as to why women are more prone to the injury. It could be because their wider pelvis may change the angle of the knee and in turn stress knee ligaments. Another possible factor is that more women than men suffer from a leg muscle imbalance, where the quadriceps—the muscle at the front of the thigh—overpowers the hamstring—the muscle at the back of the thigh—the tibia may be pulled too far forward, resulting in a torn ligament. But as Richards' own suspicion falls most strongly on the fact that women lose a narrower "anatomical notch," the horseshoe-shaped groove at the base of the femur where the ACL originates to join the tibia. Dr. Paul Morris, treasurer of the Canadian Academy of Sport Medicine, says that with a sudden knee twist, the notch "may dislocate the ligament."

To help prevent ACL tears, women have to practice the hamstring muscles in the back of the leg. Knowing how to fall is also important. "We tell the athletes, 'If you land awkwardly and it feels like you're falling backwards, sit down,'" says Richards. But he says it's "hormonal" to say that women are poorly suited to sports. When all types of injuries are considered, more men get hurt than women. The reason men are simply more violent, particularly in contact sports such as football, hockey and rugby. The bottom line, Richards adds, is that "we don't want to make it sound like women are injured more often than men—they aren't."

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THE HOME TEAM

BY GWEN SMITH

Nike or Lescage? Germaine Heaney could not decide. This equipment sponsor should she give her agent told her that it was down to the win, she had to choose. But Heaney had never faced this kind of business decision before. She found it tortuous. Finally, Heaney, a 29-year-old part-time hockey instructor from Toronto, had a national championship to prepare for and she had to focus on her training. She finally told her agent to pick for her, and so it came to pass that the top defender in women's hockey now represents Louisville's female players' line of pants, socks and gloves. And coming soon is her first sporting good store: the Germaine Heaney store. "Designer," she still says a month after the deal closed. "I have an agent."

After years in near obscurity, years of being ridiculed as girls playing at a man's game, years of fighting for free time, Canadian women's hockey is finally on a breakaway. It is fast becoming a serious sport and a serious business.

There are two reasons that the Hockey Development of women's athletes is getting respect. First, it is an event at next winter's Olympics in Nagano, Japan, and second, the Canadians are their good. As the winners of the Olympics, the women's team is in the hunt for its fourth consecutive gold medal at the world championships next week in Rochester, Ore. "This," says coach Blamire Miller, "is simply the best team we've ever put on the ice."

That is not just a coach's idle boast. There has been a revolution in the quality of the game, since the first world championships of men's hockey in 1990. While the Canadians have been the world's best from the beginning, their play has improved dramatically—they skate faster, shoot harder, pass more crisply and, while not allowed to body check in the open ice, they pack more power when taking opponents into the boards. Miller, a former Calgary cop, admits, "Sometimes I'm amazed. Sometimes I find myself thinking, 'Has this ever happened before. Has this game ever progressed in seven years.'"

There is no question that Canada is the team to beat in Rochester and will be again at Nagano. Russia, Finland and Sweden are all in hot pursuit. Even China is trying to come on strong, down to the sport by the late of 1990s earned Olympic medals. But the real competition is the United States, which is just itching to knock Canada out of perch.

A Canada U.S. final at the Olympics would be a marquee matchup. And so the sponsors—the equipment and apparel makers—are starting to come onboard, seeking affiliations with those in the top of the sport. "If it goes down to a Canada U.S. final, it will lead to an explosion of interest in the game," says Keith McKenzie, the agent for Heaney and teammate Cassie Campbell. The Canadian Hockey Association agrees, predicting that the Olympics will be followed by a flurry of parents rushing to young daughters for girls' leagues. The year after that of three-goal quotas in the world championships, the ranks of girls enrolled in recreational club hockey swelled. The ban on ice body checking after the 1990 world—largely due to the damage the Canadian squad was suffering—helped

ease parental concerns about the game's physical toll. Frances St. Louis, a veteran of Team Canada, remembers that as the days following that first world championship, "the Quebec federations received all these calls from people saying, 'How do I sign up my daughter?'" Quebec enrollment more than doubled in one year. Over the past 10 years, girls' hockey participation nationally has increased by 366 per cent to 24,000 players—and that does not include girls playing for boys' teams or young women on high-school or university teams.

Of course, women's enrollment pales next to the 682,000 currently signed up in Canadian male leagues. But the women's game has come a long way. At the turn of the century, glorified skates on the ice in flowing skirts, looking more like sisters of the cloth than members of a team. The Preston Roadsters amassed an enviable win-loss record throughout the 1890s—348-2. But the war effort drew attention elsewhere and Canadian teams such as the 30th Street and the Snowflakes and the Amazons folded. By the '50s, women's hockey had faded.

It began to resurface in the mid-'60s as local teams spring up in pockets across the country, leading to organized tournaments and provincial events. That growth spawned the world championships and, after intense international lobbying, the Olympics. Now, Canadian organizers are predicting that many little girls will want to be the next Hayley Wickenheiser, the game's 18-year-old phenom and Olympic star in the making.

At five feet, nine inches and 163 lb., Wickenheiser combines physical presence with speed, good scoring ability and a burning desire to win. (As for that beautiful move, she is a distant cousin of Doug Wickenheiser's 1990 NHL victory.) Unlike many of the veterans, Wickenheiser, of Calgary, has always played organized hockey—as boys' teams up to mid-level. Now, as a top-rated Olympic hopeful, she receives 3800 a month from Sport Canada. She trains Canada's first high-performance female hockey program, which Miller runs from Calgary's Olympic Oval. She skates constantly in the morning, then it's a couple of hours in the weight room and then hockey. She is on the ice six days a week.

Wickenheiser is the wave of the future. Miller says, a sign of the progress in the sport. The coach only wishes that public opinion were keeping pace. "The level of acceptance has been slow," Miller admits. "For too long in my opinion." In a land of hockey heroes, acceptance begins with recognition—and there are a few signs that it has yet to arrive.

At the training camp before the world's, a trio of 16-year-old boys watch the women practice at a Barrie, Ont., arena. They cluster on points one of the arms "Hey that's her," says one. "That's the girl who played for Tampa Bay." Another chimes in, "Bosh, yeah. That's Maura." A fourth reply is that Maura Rychman remains the best known female hockey player in the world because she plays in the professional elite leagues, now in Reno for the West Coast Hockey



Hayley Wickenheiser, Danielle Goyette, and Angela James are the stars of the game.

League. But her real claim to fame is that she played in an exhibit game for the Tampa Bay Lightning in 1990 after an active season in a male league. She was a natural hockey act for a new team seeking attention in the Stanley. Ironically, less than a week before the start of the world championships, Miller cut Rychman from the Canadian squad, saying that goalie Danielle Duke of Vancouver and Lindsay Gordon of Fredericton, N.B., had been more consistent.

The biggest snag in Canadian women's hockey are Wickenheiser, St. Louis, Heaney, Danielle Goyette and Angela James. But the jobs at the Barrie rink have never heard of them. Closer to

home, the recognition is not much better. Several players tell of being forced to give up day jobs or take substantial pay cuts to compete at world championships. Some have been demoted because of absences. Many have made trade-offs to keep playing well before they knew there would be any shot at an Olympic berth or any notion of a sponsor's endorsement. "Sacrifices," St. Louis remarks, taking a big breath, "where would I start? I still make sacrifices every weekend to play on Saturday or Sunday at 11 p.m. or midnight. You practice at that hour during the week and get up for work." It's the only ice time her top-ranked club team can get in Montreal.

St. Louis's job as a high-school sports director has been on the line before because of the demands of hockey. "For now it's OK," she says blantly. She can't worry about that at the moment. She is too preoccupied by the trial she broke at the final game of the national competition. At 38, St. Louis is the oldest member of Team Canada, and its heart and soul. She wants to badly to be at the Olympics. What if it causes problems with her job? "I'm ready to do whatever it takes to get whatever I takes."

St. Louis is in the best shape of her life. But now with the win, sometimes the toll of women's hockey seems daunting. Her friend Sydney Dudge, the 1993 Olympic medal-winning defenseman, speed skater, helps keep her spirits up. "Sydney used to be, 'Keep going, keep going. It's not that far.' She told me about some guy who was skating at the Olympics and he's 62. She really encourages me."

At the dedication St. Louis and others have put into this sport may soon pay off. Before the Olympics, an team member drafted contemporary match of a future is or around women's hockey. Now, who knows? Watching the emergence of women's professional basketball and softball in the States, some players suggest that a semi-professional women's hockey league could be in the cards. Others are wary of such ambition. All they agree on is that the Olympics is a turning point. "We just do better going. We've never before that we were going to get anything out of this," marvels Heaney. "They're telling us that a lot is going to happen with women's hockey prior to the Olympics. And then after the Olympics, it will be even better. Especially if we win gold." □

Jane O'Hara

Better? Yes. Equal? Not by a long shot.

I was the surprise of 1994, midway through the tennis season. The headline in the sports section of a Canadian daily newspaper read: "Jane talented... and pretty." The writer went on to pay me what I'm sure he thought was the CN Tower of compliments: "Jane is an attractive 33-year-old who could catch a man's eye both on and off the court." I would love to report that I loved the description and that the next time I saw the writer I gave him a piece of my finely tuned feminist mind. The truth is, I loved it. Me, a woman tennis player, attractive? How kind of him to notice.

And will tell my mother he said about it. She, after all, was concerned that I put my best face forward while competing. Time and again, she would look worried when she'd come upon a newspaper picture of me, conferted in the way athletes are when winning becomes *Desiree*. Gently, because she knew I was about to take her head off, she'd say, "Why don't you smile more on the court. You look such a lovely picture when you smile."

My mother wasn't. The *Anti Feminist*. She liked me playing tennis, was elated when I'd win a Wimbledon match or get through to the second of six at the U.S. Open. She applauded women tennis players, powerful, knocking the cover off a tennis ball or shaking hoops.

But she was aware that there was another world operating out there, a world in which women were being judged on how they looked as well as on how hard they played. She was warning me with words like "the Moore code" not to break the rules. She was on to something that generations of women athletes had long known: if you were going to play sports, you'd better walk softly and carry a big lipstick.

Of course, this was more than 20 years ago. And we weren't a very enlightened group. Gender politics? We barely knew from regular politics. In 1971, at a tournament in South Africa, I was drawn to play Eneane Goolagong, the graceful Australian star who happened to be part aboriginal. We'd heard the word apartheid, but it meant little to us. We were too busy trying to find practice courts. To our shame, even when we found out that Goolagong wasn't allowed to change in the "white" dressing room, we never raised a peep. As far being feminists, it was Billie Jean King who single-handedly brought the F word to women's tennis.

In the '70s, King radicalized the sport and tried to change the way women were valued. Like most Americans, she thought money alone would do it. It was the era of "Open" professional tennis, after all. But Open didn't mean equal when it came to open and women getting paid for playing the same game. As some tournaments meant, men were making eight times as much as the women.

The guys who ran tennis thought this split more than fair. They said: "Who watches women's tennis anyway?" Billie Jean replied that, if spectators didn't watch women's tennis, it was because their matches were scheduled when most people were getting out of bed and on courts so distant that fans needed a road map to find them.

In 1971, Billie Jean decided to take this case to the court of public opinion. In the women's locker room of Forest Hills, home of the U.S. Open, she sent a few buddies out down on the chair-covered sofa and put together a questionnaire that they then took to the paying spectators. Among the questions: "Do you come to the U.S. Open to watch women play?" The answer was a resounding yes.

The information was building, but it took its time. The next season, 23 of an feared ourselves in Louisville, Ky., the locked event in the first year of the all-women's Virginia Slims tennis tour. The total prize money was \$20,000. I recall \$2 to watch. And when we were playing, we were supposed to disguise ourselves in all behind closed robes and talk up the new tour. In my mind, approaching shoppers veered away when they saw the words "Women's Tennis." I felt like I was trying

to raise money for an illegal charity. Today, the women's tennis tour has stops in 54 cities and there is \$52 million in total prize money. As women's sports go, it doesn't get any bigger. The top 10 women are making small fortunes and the next 100 are earning a decent living.

But aside from the money, have things fundamentally changed? When Martina Navratilova retired in 1994, she had won more titles than any other woman—or man—in the history of the game, but she didn't have a major endorsement to her name. Commercial sponsors balked because she did not conform to their feminine ideal. Being lesbian didn't exactly help. Sports Illustrated, the highest North American sport, pays little of its services to women's sports, but in order to start a woman on the cover, it helped she's been stabbed in the back (Marianne Selzer), climbed on the knee (Nancy Kerrigan), or born to a bikini (the overrated one).

It, as the Virginia Slims ad once bragged, "You've come a long way, baby," we've still got a long way to go.

Jane O'Hara played tennis years on the world tennis tour. She then launched a career in journalism, writing 10 years at *Nichelle's* and later arriving at sports editor of *The Ottawa Sun*. She now teaches journalism at Ryerson Polytechnic University in Toronto.



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Sean, Shue:
a shirt off and
on-screen

Fun in all the right places

After Val Kilmer has gained a reputation as more of a slacker than a saint for his behavior as set, Joel Schumacher, who directed Kilmer in the title role of 1993's *Batman Forever*, went so far as to call the star "childish and impossible." But when Kilmer, 31, was in Toronto to promote his new movie, *The Saint*, which opens this week, he gave no hint of how he may have earned the "difficult" label. Instead, the actor seemed eager to please Kilmer, who plays master thief Simon Templar and deploys all kinds of ratty gadgets in the new movie, readily found a re-

porter's pressed tape recorder. He also praised co-star Elizabeth Shue for the freudians she brought to her role as socialist Emma Russell, and director Phillip Noyce for the chemistry he created on set. Kilmer—who eschews the Hollywood scene and lives in Tesque, N.M., when he is not working—even confessed that he enjoyed portraying Templar, the hero of more than 30 crime stories by British novelist Leslie Charteris and a 1960s TV show starring Roger Moore. "It was fun," says Kilmer, "and it was fun in all the places it looks like it was fun."

TV's Trojan horse

He dresses like the bicycle courier he once was, while his streamer-of-consciousness diatribes do not tell into easily digestible sound bites. In other words, Stephen Marshall is not a typical TV journalist. And that's exactly how he wants it. Marshall, 29, is the prize rover behind Channel Zero, an eclectic video newsmagazine determined to challenge the conventional wisdom at TV news. Still, it's the good old CBC that is providing Channel Zero with its first national forum. Two earlier offerings, "Planet Street" and "This is Channel Zero," are available on VHS cassette in retail outlets on four continents. But starting with last week's broadcast of Channel Zero's "The Montreal Scenario"—about the testing of the new cash card in Quebec—on The National is airing their new Channel Zero independently, all focusing on money issues. Despite his anti-journalism stance, Marshall says he's thrilled with the mainstream success—"We're the Trojan horse."



Minghella (left), Zaentz, Ondaatje: meeting the author

Oscars and whispers

As predicted, the screen adaptation of Canadian author Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient* dominated last week's Academy Awards, winning nine of its 12 nominations. But there were some surprises. Juliette Binoche was flummoxed to be named best supporting actress for her role in the film. Striving to the audience, Ondaatje heard his name mentioned four times from the podium. But director Anthony Minghella forgot to thank him. So when producer Saul Zaentz accepted the Oscar for best picture, Minghella told him—in a stage whisper—clearly out of the show's time. TV viewers: "Don't forget to thank Michael," who says writers get no respect in Hollywood?

A mission as children's minstrel

When Jack Grumsky sings, children listen. It won't always that way, however—he started out entertaining adults. But, Grumsky, 55, found his teenage lifestyle of a job, remains accessible with family life, and so drifted towards children's music. In 1984, he connected with Prologue to the Performing Arts, a nonprofit Or-

atorie organization that sings songs, dances and storylines into schools—and hasn't looked back since. His multicultural music has garnered him a raft of awards, including a Juno and two CJs. The club's Chorus Gold Awards. For his most recent project, he joined several other children's entertainers on Scholeford Jew, a fund-raising CD for Prologue's 30th anniversary. "I have found my passion," says Grumsky. "I am happiest serving youth."

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lenses, they will find no magazines or newspapers to browse through. "They'll just have to talk and relax," says Fox during a tour around the outside of the building.

Through another set of locked doors is the cleanest area. There, six examination rooms are walled with clear blocks and gleamed ceramic blocks to ensure a dust-free, noise-free environment. Zone 3 also houses facilities for researchers from Dalhousie University who are looking into what triggers sensitivities. They also want to know why Nova Scotia has an above-average incidence of the poorly understood allergy condition generally known as sick-building syndrome or 20th-century disease.

Fox acknowledges there is skepticism surrounding the entire notion of environmental illness, even among his colleagues at Dalhousie's medical school where he teaches. "This is controversial," he says. "There are people who think the money should have been spent on something else." One critic is Dr. Krypton Hayes, a Halifax family physician who took part in a committee that studied 88 Nova Scotians with symptoms of environmental illnesses. The government went ahead with its program for the full \$10-million, despite the committee's conclusion that there were other practical reasons for these illnesses. "The priorities are different," says Hayes. "It's like the company's new clothes—no one is saying it's a bad idea." Fox responds that research at the centre should produce proof that the illnesses are real. "But there are many people who will be permanently opposed to this," he says, "and we'll never be able to convince them."

From the beginning, super-cleanliness was the goal at Fall River. The planners sent packages of everything from plaster and caulking to floor and wiring to the house of potential patients—in other words, "patients." Those the patients would carefully unwrap the materials, revealing and rejecting them at the slightest sign of a reaction or change in pulse. Because some patients, including Betts, can suffer reactions many hours after exposure to an offensive chemical, they kept some of the materials on or beside their beds for a night before giving them the thumbs-up or down.

Since 1990, Betts and others with similar ailments have received treatment at an in-patient clinic in Halifax. Now, the Fall River clinic gives the staff a chance to diagnose and treat patients in isolation from contaminants that might otherwise affect their results. The new facility is for sufferers of environmental illnesses and no one else—it even offends to the provincial politicians who approved its funding. The health ministry's grand opening ceremony later this spring will be held outside, at a local hotel, to avoid contaminating the air at the centre.

SHERIDAN ALEXANDER is in Halifax.

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Education



*Marc Stéphan
questioning
Ottawa's role*

A political two-step

For parents and teachers in Quebec, it isn't the strange fact of a true-or-false test in which neither answer was entirely correct. After months of speculation on how the province would replace religious school boards with new ones, a series of meetings in Quebec City last week, and each preceded at odds with the other, intergovernmental. Alberta Minister Jacques Brabant presented his federal counterpart, Stéphane Duce, with a formal request that Ottawa amend Section 93 of the Constitution—in effect, removing the autonomy that Protestants and Roman Catholics have the right to run all school boards in Montreal and Quebec City, New Brunswick, Education Minister Pauline Marois proudly unveiled a map of the province to show how the current 156 religious boards will be replaced by 70 new linguistic ones—except in Montreal and Quebec City, where religious boards would co-exist with new linguistic ones. At the same time, she announced her intention to make the map a reality by 1998, constitutional amendment or not. It was a minimalist two-step that had many observers laughing.

"This government is pulling Ottawa into the process," said Michael Hovav, president of the language-rights group Alliance Québec. "It is a political maneuver that has nothing to do with education." Whatever the reason behind Brabant's

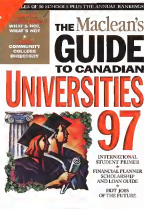
request, it met with cynicism. Brabant, for one, backed at Brabant's bid to alter a constitution that Quebec has yet to recognize, and charged that his real goal is to prove that federalism is not flexible enough to accommodate the aspirations of that province. At the same time, he and others questioned the minister's insistence that Parliament pass the amendment before a federal election, widely expected to take place within the next two months. By contrast, they noted

Redrawing the school board map in Quebec

that when Newfoundland sought to change its 1949 Terms of Union, replacing church-run boards with secular ones, it took more than a year to pass through the House of Commons and Senate. "And Newfoundland," says Hovav, "held a referendum to establish a consensus before even going to Ottawa."

Many questioned the need to involve Parliament at all. The Supreme Court of Canada ruled in 1980 that Quebec is free to replace religious boards with linguistic ones across the province. In Montreal and Quebec City, it ruled the province could do what Marois herself is now proposing: establish parallel church-run and linguistic boards—and let parents enroll their children in a school of their own choosing. What's more, when Marois asked 30 major teachers' unions and other groups to give an official opinion on the subject last year, 14 recommended she take that path. "What is so wrong with Montreal and Quebec City having four boards in

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Music

Celtic comes on strong

BY DIANE TUBSHIDE

IF YOU WANT to understand the lyrics on Mary Jane Lamond's new album, they have three choices to her manager, look up Lamond's Web site or learn Gaelic. The little booklet tucked inside the CD case does set out the words to the traditional songs on *Sans eil*—the only catch is that the words display a bewildering array of accents and a jumble of consonants. But it isn't necessary to know Scots Gaelic to enjoy Lamond's soaring voice at the lyrical rock arrangements on *Sans eil* (rebel moon, "foe for foe"). Accompanied by electric and acoustic guitar, fiddle, drums, cello, bagpipes—and even the sound of spinning wheels and step-dancers' feet—Lamond fuses pop, folk and Celtic strains into a rhythmically stirring whole. The 39-year-old Cape Breton-based singer performs plaintive ballads of lost love, work songs and joyful dance tunes—material she has painstakingly researched from oral and archival sources. It is one of the most untold pop recordings of the year. But given the current craze for all things Celtic—and Lamond's ingrained talent—she may just be the Next Big Thing.

Lamond, best known for *Sleepy Maggie*—a hit single she performed with fiddler and fellow Cape Bretoner Ashley MacIsaac on his 1995 album, *Oh, New Year's Day Today*—is only one of the latest Celtic acts to receive

a major-label release. Late last month, Lesley, a group of nine brothers and sisters originally from Lakeside, Ont., launched its sixth title, instrumental album with *Vagabond*/EMI Canada, part of a five-album deal signed last fall. Natalie MacMaster, a 26-year-old Halifax-based fiddler with three East Coast Music Awards and a Jano vocal nomination to her credit, stayed a recording deal last year with Warner Music Canada, which released her fourth CD, *No Absentees*, and now plans to record one of her numbers into a dance single.

MacMaster, Lamond and Lesley join a host of other more established performers who have opened up the ears of pop-saturated audiences to Celtic rhythms and roots in the past decade. "People are listening to stuff that, 30 years ago, they would have regarded as looney or old-fashioned," says Philby MacIsaac, host of CBC Radio's *Break 4 Ways*. "But the most interesting aspect is the artists who maintain the integrity of the tradition while experimenting with modern and cross-cultural elements. That experimentation allows the tradition to survive, and it leads younger audiences, like the 18- to 25-year-olds, to the older, purer forms." The new Celtic musicians, she says, are able to keep pace with a fiddle and worldly listening audience. "They've given Celtic a cross-generational appeal and a fresh sound."

Such Canadian artists as MacIsaac, Lauren McKennett, John McDermott, the

Lesley, saving dance songs

Randall Purdie, Barry MacNeil, the Irish Descendants, the MacIsacs and Quebec's La Bottine Souriante have found success at home and—to varying degrees, abroad—with an amazing variety of sounds. Richard Mills, an agent at the Toronto office of Vancouver-based S. L. Feldman and Associates, which handles about 30 Celtic acts, says that the genre's popularity, steadily building in the past decade, has been explosive in the past four years. "Celtic music has become more commercially viable and that's reflected in labels and record sales," says Mills. "And since Celtic music is a free with many branches—from women like Ashley MacIsaac, who has broken a lot of new ground, to John McDermott, who takes an traditional approach to ballads—it appeals to a broad spectrum of people."

But whether they are performing strictly traditional sets, reimagined versions of Gaelic songs or neo-Celtic group numbers, Canadian musicians are part of a worldwide Celtic resurgence. The Irish music and step-dance contraband *Riverdance* has been packing large concert halls around the world for more than two years while a breakfast show, *The Lord of the Dance*, is still in hot demand in Japan. The *No 2* album here is *Dance* (see downtown Tokyo boasts at least one Irish pub, complete with music). Guinness, and sporting such names as The Dubliners' Irish Pub Strips. Walking through a marketplace in Dublin last year, Stelmach's first-hand observation: "I had nearly four million records world wide—heard one of his songs being played as a singles from one of the stalls. And in Austria, a TV variety show that boasts a huge German-speaking audience watched the Lesley crew to Vienna in February to play for three sessions—and then put his new album on for so all experience with week's vacation. "It was a hit track," says Donnell's Lesley, 38, "because we didn't have a set three-minute piece, so we had to make up a new number that would show us playing and step-dancing."

Donnell, the fifth of the 11 Lesley children, makes it sound easy. But then the fiddle virtuoso—one time dubbed him "an extreme fiddler"—has had lots of experience at live performances. Seventeen years ago, the eldest of the 11 children learned The Lord Purdie, a fiddling and step-dancing troupe that performed all over rural Ontario at age

eighteen, fiddle contrabands and other special events. A 1983 documentary, which was an Academy Award for best foreign student film, captured the children, their parents, Frank and Julie (a Cape Breton step-dancing champion), and the relentless schedule of folkwork, school, music and step-dancing lessons. And while the rigors of maintaining such a life are evident in the film, so is the joyousness of their music and their dancing. "We would be playing the traditional stuff at fairs, and then we'd come home and we'd do our own stuff, wild crazy stuff, in our dance-music," Donnell recalls. "Someone would pull out a fiddle, someone else would sit down at the piano, and we'd play from 10 or 11 p.m. to 3 in the morning—fun for us."

Lesley (right) McKennett (bottom) in the past decade, pop-artists-turned dancers have opened their ears to Celtic rhythms and roots



As the Lesley children grew up, university, careers, marriages and children came, they had little time to perform together, but the impetus to regroup on a regular basis began about two years ago, when a passionate fan called Wilfow MacIsaac urged Donnell to play publicly more often. "Willow put me in at first for not pursuing my music enough," says Donnell. "She put on the phone to Peter Gosselin at Monocloud, and other people in the media. She was a major



A diverse new wave of artists is helping to revive old styles

inspiration." (McIsaac died of cancer over a year ago, and the Lesley CD is dedicated to him.)

The newly reconstituted Lesley began with the siblings playing fairs and festivals in Toronto, New York City and Chicago. To satisfy local demands for CDs at their live shows, but still mostly members from home produced Lesley, now being distributed by Virgin. A video of their single *The Call to Dance* features black-clad, black-haired brothers and sisters fiddling and playing piano and bass while one sibling, Aimee, gives an exhilarating display of freestyle step-dancing.

Mary Jane Lamond does not step-dance, but she includes the sounds of step-dancers at a West Milford, Cape Breton, community centre as *Sleepy Song*, which has been made into a video. It is part of Lamond's ongoing for her adopted community that she maintain the authentic sounds and songs of Gaelic culture in her music. The singer from Kingston, Ont., spent her formative years in Ontario and Quebec, but had soaked up Celtic influences when visiting her paternal grandparents in Cape Breton. Lamond returned to the East Coast to attend the Celtic studies program at Saint Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S., graduating with a BA in 1985. "I fell in love with the culture and history and the language," says Lamond, who notes that it has taken her about seven years to learn to speak Gaelic properly.

While her academic studies did not include music, Lamond sought out Gaelic speakers in Cape Breton to teach her their songs. In 1994, she made a CD of traditional songs that featured the help of a largely unknown Ashley MacIsaac, the beginning of a highly successful collaboration that has yielded the hit *Sleepy Maggie* and extensive touring as a member of MacIsaac's troupe. Now, with the release of her own CD, Lamond is in the midst of another North American

It may be too early to tell, but so far parents seem to be responding well to Lamond's cosmopolitan arrangements.

traditional songs. As far her neighbors in Cape Breton, she says, "People seem mostly to like it, and I feel good to sing Gaelic songs at Vancouver or Seattle or wherever." And she admits to little concern about how the sentimental lyrics might affect sales. "What's important is that I'm doing something I really love," says Lamond. "It's my work, my chosen expression."

Lamond has added just another impressive element to a lovely East Coast music scene. And as Shen Jones, the Halifax-based manager of Lamond and MacIsaac, points out, Cape Breton has been producing wonderful music for hundreds of years. "What's new is that people outside have discovered it," she says. "Maybe Celtic music has become as popular because people want to become more aware of their roots and doing a new thing altogether." But whether the current popular fascinations with things Celtic will stay or go, Jones says, "the music is here to stay." □

Mia the mistreated

Woody was cold from Day 1, so why did she stay?

WHAT FALLS AWAY

By Mia Farrow
(Doubleday, 370 pages, \$34.95)

The Woody-Mia movie, a tragically short but dramatic little film starring Mia Farrow for her adopted daughter Soon-Yi, has been up and down since 1992. Predictably, it began with Woody in the role of director, holding a news conference to announce that he was suing for custody of their adopted daughter Dylan and his biological son, Satchel. Mia had been planning to sue him, as well as his biological son, but in a pre-emptive strike, Woody declared Mia an unfit mother. After this performance came the reviews—a number of Woody-sympathetic profiles in the American media. Mia was silent.

But now, Woody has become the actor in Mia's movie—i.e., mother, a character in her elegant but unconvincingly innocent. Her claim that she spent four years writing *What Falls Away* and penned it on her own seems credible, a ghost writer would have been hardpressed to write a sentence like this one, describing an early encounter with first husband Frank Sinatra: "I felt a column of light radiate inside me, as if the sun's crimson disk had come closer." But if the style is occasionally overwrought, the domestic details are never less than riveting.

Mia presents Woody as a selfish artist with "zero interest in kids," apart from his "unappreciated" obsession with daughter Dylan (not to be confused with the actress silent in *Soon-Yi*). He comes off as heartless, selfish, mean and monstrously unattractive. This was a man who refused to take a shower in a stall where the bath was not in the center. As one friend put it: "You can't say Woody is proud that therapy fails—he could have become a serial killer."

Mia contrasts her own person in the book as a loving soul whose life has trained her well for pain and betrayal. She begins with an account of her bout with polio at the age of 9, when she says her "childhood ended." Her father died when she was 17. Then she lost her older brother, Miles, became a popular actress on the TV series *Payas* (Paris, and married Sean Connery before the age of 21. Now 52, she has raised 14 kids and passed through the eye of a media hurricane. In other words, Mia Farrow is an extraordinarily tough survivor, not at all passive. It was she who initiated contact with Woody when she sent him a complimentary

note about his film *Motionless* (music, considering the affair between Allen's character and a high-school student played by Mariel Hemingway).

Mia describes in devastating detail the day she came across naked pictures of Soon-Yi on the mantle in Woody's apartment. For weeks afterward, Woody kept arguing about and apologizing for his involvement with the girl, saying cruel things like



The couple, pre-breakup, with the children, including Soon-Yi (center) and Satchel

"Let's use this as a springboard to a deeper relationship." Mia tried to force things sensibly for him—"Look, you're not supposed to f--- the kids"—but it didn't get through. "The moral dimensions of the situation still utterly eluded him," she writes. Her reviewer duly notes that for her birthday, "Woody gave me three lovely leather-bound volumes of Emily Dickinson's poems and took me out for dinner at Raul's."

Woody was just one of a number of powerful but distant partners—although clearly he was the one who caused her the most pain. First, there was her marriage to Sinatra, a pairing that—with Mia at 15 looking like a Catholic schoolgirl and Frank three decades older—would be echoed when the 35-year-old Woody fell for Mia's 16-year-old daughter. She even compares the failure of her relationship with Sinatra to an "adoption that I somehow messed up." After too many lost and lonely Vegas nights, Mia bailed out and flew off to India to study with the Maharishi

Mahesh Yogi, at the same time as The Beatles. (The Maharishi gave Mia her own mantras, but she moved when she heard it, and he wouldn't repeat it. She was never quite sure she had the right mantras after that.) Her next marriage was to composer André Previn, with whom she had three kids and adopted three. They split amicably and he was the first person Mia called when she found out about Soon-Yi and Woody. Both her ex-husbands supported Mia through the custody battle, which is telling. If Mia was accurate or crazy as doctors make her out to be, it is doubtful that, as her book reports, Sinatra would be willing to break Woody's legs for her (as other doctors claim).

And what about the charges against Woody of sexual abuse? While it is impossible to tell from the book—despite pages of court transcripts at the end—at the very least it is patently clear that he held in the

father role. The burning question by the end of the book is this: how could she continue to confuse the children she describes in her memoirs with love? It is a contradiction she acknowledges but does not resolve. "One of my greatest regrets is that I permitted this to continue through 12 irreplaceable years of their childhoods." "If Woody didn't 'get it' that you don't date your partner's daughter, then Mia didn't 'get it' that Woody was treating her badly long before he betrayed her. What the book suggests is that both were capable of staggering self-delusion in crucial areas. This is the sort of thing we tend to excuse in a creative genius and condemn in noncreatives in actors and authors. If you believe both stories—and we may have to wait for books by their therapists and housekeepers to find out the whole truth—then love is not only blind. Sometimes it can be deaf and dumb as well.

MARIN JACKSON

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Northrop Frye had more than intellectual passion

THE CORRESPONDENCE
OF NORTHROP FRYE
AND HELEN KEMP,
1932-1939

Edited by Robert D. Denham
(University of Toronto, 999 pages, \$140)

In the lecture room, Northrop Frye was notoriously intimidating. He prowled out his insights in perfectly formed sentences. He covered the blackboard with diagrams illustrating his seemingly unmanageable theories, and he asked such difficult

country—and should banish forever the notion of Frye as an intellectual iceberg. Frye and Kemp first met in 1931, when Helen, just 23, was playing the piano for a Gilbert and Sullivan production at Victoria College. Frye, 18, was working on the lights. Their friendship rapidly deepened into love—a love based over the next eight years by frequent separations. During vacations, Frye often returned to his family's home in New Brunswick, while his supervisor with letters in Ontario. Then, in the summer of 1934, he travelled to rural Saskatchewan to



Kemp, Frye: the early letters offer a fascinating glimpse into their passions

serve as a United Church student minister. He later gave up the idea of entering the ministry. In 1934 and 1935, Kemp spent a year in England studying art history, and later Frye himself left for a three-year stint at Oxford. And through it all they wrote: hundreds of pages of Frye's nearly diaphanous hand and Kemp's graceful one, describing their activities with an enthusiasm fuelled by eros and loneliness.

Frye was usually bored by his returns to New Brunswick, and the letters from there are sometimes spiced with a sarcasm in which his latent egomaniacal brilliance is already evident. In 1932, he remarks that one visitor to his family home has a cellar so dirty it

looks like "a Toronto movie producer's mind." But such displays of youthful superciliousness were shadowed by periods of depression and lassitude. As the '30s progressed, Frye came to view both his gifts and his shortcomings with a mordant clarity. Writing to Kemp during her London year away, he boasts—10 years before the appearance of *Fearful Symmetry*—"I know Blake as no other man has known him." But in the next sentence he laments: "I haven't got a subtle mind. Only a pounding, driving, outrageous intellect."

Both lovers considered to each other in a fond, funny way. Frye is forever telling Kemp to pull up her intellectual socks, while she lectures him about missing his health. He frequently forgot to eat, and at one point seemed to be subsisting on coffee and chocolate bars. Already she was coveting out her lifelong role as his chief protector and nurturer. She writes to him in Saskatchewan—where he was having a

terrific time riding a flaxseed old mare on his parish rounds, and enduring beatings and lead rain in the houses where he boarded—that he must remember to speak simply to his parishioners. Even Kemp is often overwhelmed by the complexity of his speech. "It is hard, being a genius," she acknowledges, but adds, "It is also hard being the friend of a genius."

The letters reveal that Kemp had an abortion in 1938, the year before she married Frye. The couple never did have children.

Kemp is often racked with doubts about her ability to partner Frye ("I'm scared to death when I think about being your wife"), but she is clearly a good match in many respects. She is a warm and sympathetic ob-

server of other people, and writes eloquently of intellectual circles in Toronto and London. As for Frye, in later life he developed a reputation for being snail, or unwilling, to make small talk. But in these letters he raves on about people and places with all the assurance of a natural storyteller. He was, after all, in love, and could owe even to confidants of poetry, as when he asked one letter by asking Kemp everything lovely that came to mind: "Star Cloud, Brown Moose, Wind Xipole, Little Grace-Note, When Next, and Sweetest of all Secrets, Good Night, Nannie."

JOHN HENRIKSEN

Allan Fotheringham



The Treasure of the Sierra Busang

So, a friend in Vancouver reports, three of the guys in his office have just had their RRSPs cut in half. Two of them have put their houses up for sale.

This would be the day last week when every fan in the land worried their friends there may be no gold at all in Bre-X.

Just a month earlier, the screaming headline on Maclean's cover had stated: GREED, GRAFT, GOLD. Where there is gold, there is always greed and graft.

Students of strategy will recall the antics of those who were fighting fiercely to get control of this obscure bank of jungle at Bengang in Indonesia. Pushed out at the last minute was Toronto billionaire Peter Munk, the Nations USA gold champion in the world, who was backed by his heavy weight directors and shogun insiders, George Bush and Brian Mulroney.

When the export agent of the United States and the prime minister of Canada came within an inch of losing their robes—not to mention their minds—we have deep comedy.

The highly personable of the classic 1960s Bre-X, The Treasure of the Sierra Madre, starring a young Humphrey Bogart and the grizzled Walter Huston. In the last frame, as Huston cackles over the reward of gold it is before him, a whirlwind of joyous and the whole fortune disappears in the wind.

Huston bursts into giggled tears—and then, as reality sets in, he subsides into laughter: Greed, graft and gold. They all go together. Last week it wasn't Walter Huston's gold dust that was whisked away by the breeze. It was all those guys with RRSPs and new houses and, car dealers, you can get a haul on that Envoys.

Peter Munk made part of his fortune from the Klondike, where he was born—and paid his way through a university by summer work in mining camps. This book *Klondike* was published The Last Great Gold Rush 1896-1899. You can now add to that 1997, where the smart-alek kids in red suspenders who own the stock markets were scrambling with a Bre-X stock that started at pennies and went to over \$200 before being split and eaten, plunging down from \$15.50 last week to the basement so fast that the Toronto Stock Exchange computers were overloaded and yelled quit.



There was the South Sea Bubble. There was the Teapot Dome scandal that sank forever the reputation of President Warren Harding. We never learn, whenever gold is found, it breeds greed and graft. David Duggan is not surprised. He says the Bre-X fiasco is "another in line," but fits into the grand scheme.

Bates is the superb Vancouver Sun reporter who, rightly, has been rewarded with a nomination for a National Newspaper Award to be chosen later this month. It has been his leader topic to cover the Vancouver Stock Exchange and all its wonderful ways, the cowboy capital of gold, greed and graft. That's where those boys lost their brains last week.

For his efforts, Bates was named by the RCMP earlier this year that he has been under surveillance by the bodiless and his barely had best be or guard. His neighbors spot strange cars about. Nothing would surprise anyone around the VSE.

A few years back, when the VSE market was riding high on Howe Street and the busy letters started copier with their coffee early, a chap walked into the crowded restaurant of the Georgia Hotel, then the gathering spot for the high rollers. It is across the street from the Vancouver Art Gallery, long corner from Eikawa's.

The chap walked in at 11 a.m., walked up to Jimmy Hall, a colorful Howe Street player, filled him full of five bullets and walked out. Not too long ago, David Ward, who had staked left the action, was found with a large bullet hole in his cranium. That's Howe Street.

Bates is not surprised at the Bre-X fiasco, only that it can fool people such as Munk, Bush and Mulroney. When

the Calgary outfit's American partner Thompson McMillan, Copper & Gold had their own drilling just 1.5 m away from the Bre-X site, the task that and discovered instead "unprofitable" gold, analyst John Kaiser concluded: "That's the farthest a bodiless it was asked."

Nothing surprises Bates anymore. Although it apparently does Munk/Bush/Mulroney. He recalls a VSE stock called Delginco which, on the basis of four holes drilled in Nevada, lost a capital loss of \$750 million and rose to \$84 on the Nasdaq exchange. When he revealed that the backers were offshore in the British Virgin Islands, Larchmont and Switzerland, the stock plunged to \$10 before trading was halted.

One of the great VSE scams was the junior stock that had done "thousands as big as chicken eggs." After a while, the stock settled a nice cruise—which was about the price of an egg.

A few years back, the Toronto Stock Exchange suggested the two characters named Murray Pines and Earl Glick take their business to Vancouver, the surroundings perhaps more relaxed. I once asked Pines on television if he knew that he and his partner were known at the VSE as "Sleazy and Slick." The rest of the interview did not go well.

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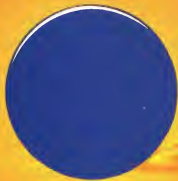
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*1997 International Design Magazine Gold Award; 1997 Interior of the Year Award, the Automobile Magazine

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